

# **Environmental Justice Identification & Proposed Outreach Report**

**Statewide Transportation Improvement Program  
FY 2010-2013**

**October 2009**



## Contents

I. Introduction.....	3
II. Purpose.....	5
III. Environmental Justice Education and Public Outreach.....	6
IV. Methodology.....	18
V. STIP State Area Maps .....	21
VI. STIP District Area Maps .....	24
VI. STIP District Area Maps .....	25
A. District 1 .....	27
B. District 2 .....	34
C. District 3.....	40
D. District 4.....	47
E. District 5 .....	53
F. District 6.....	59
VII. Focus and Findings .....	65
VIII. Sources of Information.....	70

## I. Introduction

**Community groups now understand the importance of transportation policies and the impact these policies have on the economy and the society as a whole.**

In 2005, the President signed into law the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficiency Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)*. SAFETEA-LU guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation. Two bills that proceeded SAFETEA-LU are the *Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)* and the *1998 Transportation*

*Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)*. (ISTEA required each state to develop a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), submit it to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for approval.

The STIP identifies federally funded transportation projects such as highway, maintenance, bicycle, and pedestrian projects. It is financially constrained (dollar value of projects programmed is equal to the anticipated revenues per program year), and includes projects consistent with the Statewide Transportation Plan. The Georgia STIP includes transportation projects for rural areas that were developed in the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) ongoing planning process. All transportation projects included in the STIP emphasize the maintenance, safety, and improvement of existing transportation facilities and public transportation systems that support the GDOT's mission to "provide a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to its citizens and the environment."

Per federal law, STIP's must involve early and continuous public involvement. Every effort must be made to conduct activities in a non-discriminatory manner. In 1964, Title VI was enacted as part of the landmark Civil Rights Act. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. In 1969, Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires the Federal Government, in cooperation with state and local government

and other concerned public and private organizations, to use all practicable means and measures to create and maintain conditions where man and nature can co-exist. In 1994, President Clinton signed the Environmental Justice (EJ) Executive Order 12898. Compared to the civil rights act, both actions address non-discrimination, identify minority populations, and address meaningful involvement of impacted citizens. However, the EJ Executive Order covers both minority and low-income in its protective class, whereas the civil rights act covers only minorities.

There are several federal regulations, statues, policies, and technical advisories requiring Federal agencies to conduct community impact assessments to determine the impact of governmental decisions on a community and its quality of life. As stated in the guidebook entitled the *Community Impact Assessment – A Quick Reference for Transportation (1996)*, developed by several State and local transportation professionals in consultation with the FHWA,

“... community impact assessments are a process to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and its quality of life. These assessments ensure that transportation projects achieve environmental justice and that they do not discriminate. They should include items of importance to people, such as mobility, safety, employment effects, relocation, isolation, and other community services.”

Public involvement must be an integral part of conducting community impact assessments. With this in mind, the FHWA has built a framework of policies and procedures to help achieve its social, economic, and environmental goals while accomplishing its transportation mission. Since 1970, the Federal-Aid Highway Program has required full consideration of possible adverse social, economic, and environmental effects during project planning, development, and decision-making.

This report details the efforts made to identify EJ populations within the STIP area and the strategies used to target these populations through the public involvement process.

## II. Purpose

This document entitled *Environmental Justice Identification and Proposed Outreach Report 2010-2013* has been prepared to assist in the development of the STIP for the study area defined as the rural counties located in the state of Georgia. The STIP is a list of all projects in Georgia for which Federal funding is proposed to be used and includes highways, public transit, and multimodal projects. Information contained in this report will be used to identify both where Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations exist in the study area and strategies for ensuring public involvement is inclusive of EJ populations (minorities, Hispanics, elderly, low-income). More specifically, the document includes the following: (1) methodology used to determine the EJ threshold for minorities, Hispanic, low-income, and elderly; (2) identification of EJ communities that are above the EJ threshold; (3) information on public outreach strategies and best practices; and (4) identification of local EJ organizations and resources for major EJ news and information.

Low-income and under-represented communities, often called EJ communities, must be identified and encouraged to participate in discussions on transportation projects that have the potential to impact their lives. The involvement of affected communities must begin early in the process. Transportation staff must be able to effectively communicate with all stakeholders, including rural local government and EJ communities. There are techniques available through the USDOT (FHWA/FTA) that provide useful information helpful in the development of public involvement processes; however, these are only guidelines and must be modified to include state and local strategies.

### III. Environmental Justice Education and Public Outreach

#### A. Public Outreach and Involvement

Public outreach and involvement is extremely important if states are to effectively integrate environmental justice concerns into transportation decision-making. Outreach has always been a major part of State DOT project implementation plans. The difference is that EJ now requires every state to develop public outreach strategies to ensure that there is meaningful involvement of minority and low-income populations in transportation decision making. During the planning stage and prior to the project development stage, efforts must be made to identify EJ populations. EJ populations can be identified using the following main sources: (1) U.S. Census Bureau Data and (2) data collected from local government planning departments and DOT transportation staff. Section IV below discusses the methodology for identifying the EJ populations for the GDOT rural counties.

Public Involvement Techniques published by USDOT, and other federal agencies, are readily available online or through government printing offices. The FHWA and FTA published a guidebook entitled *Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decision-making (1996)*. However, as stated, this is only a guidebook. There is no one program that fits every situation. In most instances, an outreach strategy must be developed for each project based upon the specifics of the study area. As stated in GDOT's 2007-2009 *Environmental Justice Outreach Report developed by Sycamore, Inc.*, the STIP public involvement process includes an environmental justice program that is designed to build and sustain meaningful participation of EJ populations in the rural districts. Specifically, the technical approach of this program includes:

- Coordination of meeting notices with grass-roots organizations representing the interests of environmental justice populations, including neighborhood groups, religious institutions, and senior centers;
- Distribution of study information via public libraries, schools superintendents, and social and community organizations as they express interest or are identified through the stakeholder process;

- Translation services, as needed, to ensure suitable communication; and
- Adherence to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for public information.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the GDOT and study area municipalities, if requested, will provide special assistance at the meeting for those persons who are disabled. Those persons requiring special assistance, including translation services, must send written notification to the appropriate district contact at least five days prior to the Public Information Meeting. All notices and meeting announcements contained information concerning the process for requesting reasonable special accommodations and will include the name and contact information for the district contact person. Each area developed processes for getting information out to affected populations remembering that not everyone has access to email, Internet, or to the local newspaper. Innovative outreach techniques were developed to identify minority and low-income populations, encouraged them to participate, and ensured that reasonable efforts were made to address their concerns and provide them with meaningful opportunities to comment on proposed transportation projects.

## **(1) Public Outreach Strategies**

The public involvement process included development of a stakeholder database; coordination of media; review of website content; scheduling of public meetings; development of meeting handouts; opportunity for public comment; collection and analysis of data; and development of annual Public Involvement Report.

Public outreach materials were placed in public locations frequently visited by the affected communities/EJ populations including churches; religious, social, and cultural organizations; traditional and non-traditional educational institutions; grocery, clothing, and thrift stores; community-based organizations and recreational facilities; government agencies; community action agencies; senior citizen groups; clinics and healthcare facilities; laundromats and other local businesses and trade organizations; and

environmental and environmental justice organizations. Information was also placed in local newspapers, radio, and other media. Advertisements were placed in popular sections of the newspaper and were written in the language spoken by affected communities/EJ populations.

Public meetings were designed to provide information, ask for input, and create solutions. Some important issues considered when organizing the public meetings are:

- Time and location of meeting. It is important to make sure the meeting is convenient for all participants being careful to consider the schedules of underrepresented populations – minority, Hispanic, and low-income. Scheduling conflicts may require holding more than one meeting at various times.
- Address language barrier. A translator should be present at meeting to translate information presented by the presenter and comments from members of the audience, if appropriate.
- Independent facilitator. When there are large groups, or when major conflicts are anticipated, consider using a neutral facilitator at community meetings, task force, etc.
- Meeting location should be accessible. Host meetings location at locations that are accessible by transit riders. Locations should also be handicap accessible. Meetings should be hosted in the community instead of at a government building.
- Allow opportunity for shy participants to comment. Provide comment cards that participants can mail back. Comment cards must include contact person name, phone number, and mailing information.

## **(2) GDOT – Public Outreach Strategy for Rural Counties**

The STIP public involvement strategy included a range of techniques that meet the needs of each district and allow for flexibility if the needs of the target audiences, or proposed project, changes. Below is an outline of project deliverables for the subject area.

(a). Stakeholder Database. An essential component of the public involvement strategy was the development of a comprehensive stakeholder database of individuals, communities, businesses, faith-based organizations, environmental groups, and other interested parties as identified through the stakeholder involvement process or as interest is shown in the studies. The database was used to disseminate information about the study. The list, used to facilitate invitation of stakeholders to meetings, was build upon the existing GDOT Family of Partners database, lists from previous studies completed in the study area, and other sources. The database was updated throughout this STIP cycle as new stakeholders are defined.

(b). Media Coordination. Draft press releases were developed for finalization and approval by the GDOT Project Manager. A proactive approach to these efforts made accurate, up-to-date information available to the public and helped to minimize misconceptions or misinformation. Information was disseminated using press releases, paid radio advertisements, and GDOT web site announcements.

(c). Study Website Materials. Study website materials from each public information open house meeting, including meeting announcements, were made available to GDOT for posting to the department's website. The website address was displayed on all study public informational materials.

(d). Public Meetings. All facility logistics were coordinated through the GDOT District Planning & Programming Engineers. The number of meetings was determined based on consultation and coordination with each district. Districts were encouraged to dovetail meetings where one meeting location is able to serve the stakeholders in two adjacent districts. To ensure EJ populations were equitably served by the meetings, every attempt was made to ensure that meeting venues were ADA compliant, easily accessible by public transportation, and located near the areas identified as EJ communities through analysis. In addition, every attempt was made to secure meeting venues that are non-threatening, but are welcoming and familiar locations. Schools, public places such as malls and welcome centers, religious institutions, and recreation centers were all viable options for meeting locations.

(e). Meeting Handouts & Materials. Meeting notifications were distributed to the study's stakeholder database before each public meeting. Meeting materials were developed including flyers, handouts, graphics, and maps illustrating the location of STIP projects. These collateral materials and maps were essential to provide straightforward information to the public. Considering the existence of concentrations of Spanish-speaking citizens in key districts, relevant materials were translated into Spanish on an as-needed basis to ensure successful outreach efforts to all populations. Additionally, flyers were prepared and mailed to different locations to be posted throughout the STIP area to advertise each public meeting. Potential locations included libraries, social and civic buildings, and other major activity centers.

(f). Public Comment & Collection. Meeting attendees had the opportunity to provide input on displays and information made available to them at each public meeting location. Comment forms were made available for completion on site or to be returned to GDOT via postal mail or fax. Comment forms also served as meeting evaluation surveys, as attendees were encouraged to provide feedback on the quality of each public involvement activity and the community outreach strategies employed.

(g). Annual Public Involvement Report. At the conclusion of the STIP cycle a comprehensive report based on all public outreach was conducted. The report synthesized all process documentation completed throughout the preparation and implementation of the meetings. Though EJ population trends vary per district, these public outreach techniques were used in each district throughout the STIP study area.

These public outreach techniques were used in each district throughout the STIP study area. However, the EJ populations and their geographic concentrations dictated how the outreach techniques were targeted for each district. Customized outreach strategies for each GDOT district are outlined below in Tables 1 - 6. The methodology used to identify the EJ populations within each county is described in section IV of this document.

**Table 1: District 1**

<b>EJ Category</b>	<b>Geographic Areas</b>	<b>Outreach Targets</b>
Minority	Elbert, Hart, Walton, Barrow Counties	Recreation Centers, Neighborhood Associations, Churches
Hispanic	Rabun, Lumpkin, Habersham, Banks, Jackson, Elbert and Barrow Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Latin American Associations
Low-Income	Lumpkin, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Franklin, Hart, Elbert, Walton Counties	Recreation Centers, Neighborhood Associations, Churches
Elderly	Union, Towns, Rabun, Dawson, Lumpkin, White, Habersham, Stephens, Franklin, Hart, Elbert, Madison, Jackson, Barrow, Walton Counties	Recreation Centers, Senior Centers, Civic Clubs, RV Interest Groups

**Table 2: District 2**

<b>EJ Category</b>	<b>Geographic Areas</b>	<b>Outreach Targets</b>
Minority	Newton, Morgan, Greene, Taliaferro, Oglethorpe, Wilkes, Lincoln, McDuffie, Warren, Hancock, Putnam, Jasper, Baldwin, Wilkinson, Washington, Jefferson, Burke, Screven, Jenkins, Emanuel, Johnson, Treutlen, Laurens, Bleckley, Dodge Counties	Recreation Centers, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League) Neighborhood Associations, Churches, Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Hispanic	Newton, Morgan, Putnam, Baldwin, Greene, Wilkes, Columbia, Jenkins, Emanuel Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Latin American Associations, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League), Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Low-Income	Newton, Jasper, Putnam, Greene, Taliaferro, Oglethorpe, Wilkes, Lincoln, McDuffie, Warren, Hancock, Baldwin, Glascock, Wilkinson, Washington, Jefferson, Burke, Screven, Jenkins, Emanuel, Treutlen, Johnson, Laurens, Bleckley, Dodge Counties	Recreation Centers, Neighborhood Associations, Churches, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League), Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Elderly	Newton, Jasper, Morgan, Putnam, Greene, Taliaferro, Oglethorpe, Wilkes, Lincoln, Columbia, McDuffie, Warren, Hancock, Baldwin, Glascock, Wilkinson, Washington, Jefferson, Burke, Screven, Jenkins, Emanuel, Johnson, Treutlen, Laurens, Bleckley, Dodge Counties	Recreation Centers, Senior Centers, Civic Clubs, Social Services

**Table 3: District 3**

<b>EJ Category</b>	<b>Geographic Areas</b>	<b>Outreach Targets</b>
Minority	Troup, Meriweather, Spalding, Butts, Lamar, Monroe, Jones, Harris, Talbot, Upson, Taylor, Crawford, Twiggs, Peach, Macon, Schley, Marion, Stewart, Webster, Sumter, Dooly, Pulaski Counties	Recreation Centers, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League) Neighborhood Associations, Churches, Major Activity Centers (Malls), University (Ft. Valley State)
Hispanic	Taylor, Peach, Pulaski, Dooly, Sumter, Macon, Webster, Marion, Troup Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Latin American Associations, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League), Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Low-Income	Heard, Troup, Meriweather, Spalding, Lamar, Upson, Talbot, Crawford, Twiggs, Taylor, Peach, Macon, Dooly, Pulaski, Sumter, Schley, Marion, Webster, Stewart Counties	Recreation Centers, Neighborhood Associations, Churches, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League), Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Elderly	Troup, Meriweather, Spalding, Lamar, Butts, Jones, Upson, Talbot, Harris, Taylor, Crawford, Peach, Macon, Pulaski, Twiggs, Dooly, Sumter, Webster, Stewart Counties	Recreation Centers, Senior Centers, Churches, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League), Major Activity Centers (Malls)

**Table 4: District 4**

<b>EJ Category</b>	<b>Geographic Areas</b>	<b>Outreach Targets</b>
Minority	Quitman, Randolph, Terrell, Lee, Crisp, Turner, Wilcox, Clay Calhoun, Early, Miller, Seminole, Decatur, Baker, Mitchell, Grady, Thomas, Brooks, Clinch, Lanier, Cook, Colquitt, Worth, Tift, Berrien, Atkinson, Coffee, Irwin, Ben Hill Counties	Recreation Centers, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League) Neighborhood Associations, Churches, Universities (Albany State, Valdosta State)
Hispanic	Crisp, Wilcox, Calhoun, Seminole, Decatur, Baker, Mitchell, Grady, Thomas, Brooks, Cook, Colquitt, Tift, Berrien, Atkinson, Coffee, Ben Hill, Echols Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Latin American Associations, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League), Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Low-Income	Quitman, Randolph, Terrell, Lee, Crisp, Turner, Wilcox, Clay Calhoun, Early, Miller, Seminole, Decatur, Baker, Mitchell, Grady, Thomas, Brooks, Clinch, Lanier, Cook, Colquitt, Worth, Tift, Berrien, Atkinson, Coffee, Irwin, Ben Hill, Echols Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League), Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Elderly	Quitman, Randolph, Terrell, Crisp, Turner, Wilcox, Clay Calhoun, Early, Miller, Seminole, Decatur, Baker, Mitchell, Grady, Thomas, Brooks, Clinch, Cook, Colquitt, Worth, Tift, Berrien, Coffee, Irwin, Ben Hill, Echols Counties	Recreation Centers, Senior Centers, Churches, Social Services, Major Activity Centers (Malls)

**Table 5: District 5**

<b>EJ Category</b>	<b>Geographic Areas</b>	<b>Outreach Targets</b>
Minority	Telfair, Wheeler, Montgomery, Toombs, Candler, Bulloch, Evans, Tattnall, Jeff Davis, Appling, Long, Wayne, McIntosh, Camden, Charlton, Ware Counties	Recreation Centers, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League) Neighborhood Associations, Churches, Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Hispanic	Wheeler, Montgomery, Toombs, Candler, Bulloch, Evans, Tattnall, Jeff Davis, Appling, Long, Wayne, Bacon, Pierce, Ware, Wayne, Camden Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Latin American Associations, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League)
Low-Income	Telfair, Wheeler, Montgomery, Toombs, Tattnall, Evans, Candler, Bulloch, Effingham, Bryan, Jeff Davis, Bacon, Appling, Long, Wayne, McIntosh, Camden, Brantley, Charlton, Ware, Pierce Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League)
Elderly	Telfair, Wheeler, Montgomery, Toombs, Tattnall, Evans, Candler, Bulloch, Jeff Davis, Bacon, Appling, Wayne, McIntosh, Brantley, Ware, Pierce Counties	Recreation Centers, Senior Centers, Churches, Social Services

**Table 6: District 6**

<b>EJ Category</b>	<b>Geographic Areas</b>	<b>Outreach Targets</b>
Minority	Chattooga, Gordon, Polk, Carroll Counties	Recreation Centers, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League) Neighborhood Associations, Churches, Major Activity Centers (Malls)
Hispanic	Chattooga, Murray, Gordon, Gilmer, Pickens, Bartow, Polk, Carroll Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Latin American Associations, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League)
Low-Income	Chattooga, Walker, Murray, Gilmer, Gordon, Bartow, Polk, Haralson, Carroll Counties	Recreation Centers, Churches, Social Services, Interest Groups (NAACP, United Way, Urban League)
Elderly	Dade, Walker, Murray, Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens, Gordon, Bartow, Chattooga, Polk, Haralson, Carroll, Counties	Recreation Centers, Senior Centers, Churches, Social Services

### (3) Public Involvement Documentation and Program Evaluation

Comprehensive documentation and accurate interpretation and analysis of findings are essential to the successful implementation of the STIP public involvement process. Documenting all aspects of the public involvement process will help GDOT to maintain continuity in decision-making and to improve future STIP meetings. Information collected is also useful in developing a public involvement evaluation plan.

A public involvement evaluation plan is a key aspect of developing a public involvement strategy. Spurred by federal interest, regional planning organizations and other agencies have started evaluating all public involvement efforts in order to determine which techniques are most effective and under which circumstances they are not. Evaluation measures are also important in documenting the level of public involvement achieved. The

following table outlines the major tasks and key performance measures taken from the 2007-2009 *Environmental Justice Outreach Report developed by Sycamore, Incorporated*.

**Table 7: Public Involvement Plan Evaluation**

<b>Technique</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>
Study Database/ Mailing List	Number of contacts; Number of mailings
Media Coordination	Amount of media coverage; Accuracy of information delivered to citizens; Accessibility to media outlets for affected parties
Study Website Content	Number of website visitors; Number of comments received; Types of comments received
Public Meetings	Location of meeting venues with respect to EJ populations; Location of meeting venues with respect to public transportation (where applicable); Number of attendees
Meeting Handouts & Other Materials	Number of notifications/flyers distributed; Timeliness of distribution; Notification/flyers are translated as needed; Number of avenues used to reach the public
Public Comment Collection & Analysis	Number of comments received; Types of comments received



*Figure 1: Georgia Counties - STIP Rural Study Area* is a map that displays the counties in Georgia and details the study area for this report. To better guide the environmental justice outreach program, an analysis of racial, ethnic, income, and age demographics was conducted. The populations analyzed were the Minority, Hispanic, low-income, and elderly communities in the rural STIP area. For the purpose of this analysis the Minority variable is defined as “All persons except non-Hispanic one-race-only Whites.”

Upon selecting these variables for study, data for each of the 621 Census tracts in the 130 counties in the STIP study area were collected from the U.S. Census website (<http://www.census.gov>). Relevant data from the 2000 Census includes the following (collected at the tract level): total population, total minority population, total Hispanic population, total number of individuals below the poverty level, and total population age 65 and above. Each variable was then calculated as a percentage of the total population of each tract. Additionally, each variable was calculated as a percentage of the total population for each county and as a percentage of the total population for the entire rural STIP study area. Within the large rural area of the State of Georgia that was considered, an average percentage for each variable was calculated. This percentage was used as the threshold above which a Census tract level population was considered an “EJ population.” Where a Census tract’s percentage on a variable meets or exceeds the expected STIP-wide percentage, the Census tract is identified as an EJ community. In other words, these tracts have a larger-than-average percentage of minorities, Hispanics, low-income, or elderly residents. Throughout this report, the terms —EJ community or —EJ population refer to a group that is above the STIP-wide threshold. See *Table 1* for the EJ thresholds based on STIP-wide population characteristics.

**Table 8: Environmental Justice Thresholds**

	<b>Minority</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Low-Income</b>	<b>Elderly (65+)</b>
STIP-Wide Percentage	27.4%	3.0%	15.5%	11.8%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Additionally, the STIP area census tracts with values higher than the calculated threshold were classified in classes between I and IV (Class I being the values closer to the threshold and Class IV being the higher values). The Classes were calculated using the

“equal number of features” classification algorithm. By using this method, each class is equally represented in the study area. See *Table 9* for the class breaks for each class of each variable.

**Table 9: Environmental Justice Class Breaks**

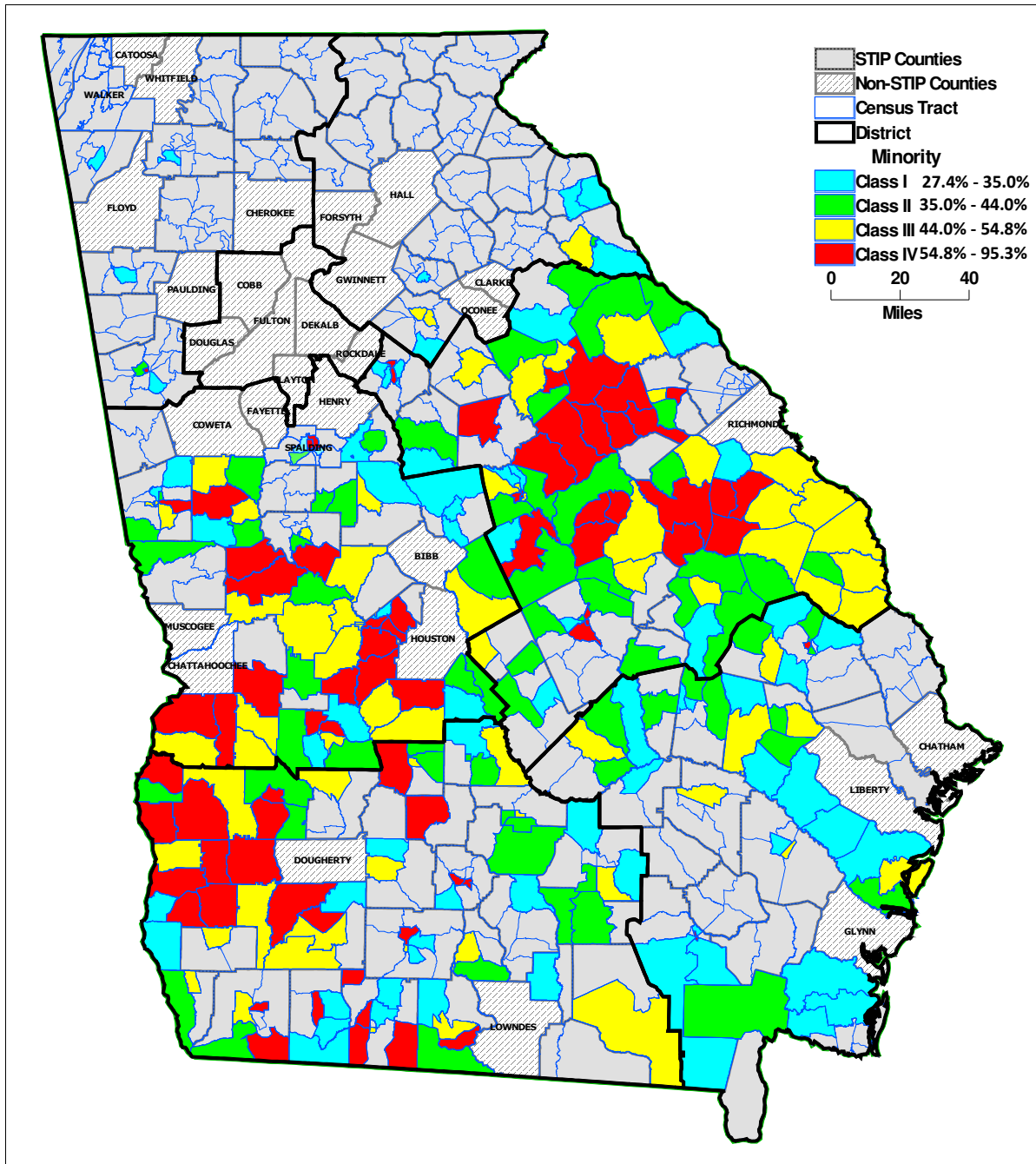
<b>Variable</b>	<b># of Census Tracts</b>	<b>Class I</b>	<b>Class II</b>	<b>Class III</b>	<b>Class IV</b>
Minority	284	27.4%-35.0% (73)	35.0%-44.0% (73)	44.0%-54.8% (71)	54.8%-95.3% (74)
Hispanic	159	3.0%-3.9% (40)	3.9%-5.4% (40)	5.4%-8.8% (40)	8.8%-30.2% (40)
Low- income	301	15.5%-18.0% (76)	18.0%-21.1% (80)	21.1%-25.1% (76)	25.1%-54.9% (77)
Elderly	323	11.8%-13.0% (85)	13.0%-14.3% (84)	14.3%-16.2% (81)	16.2%-28.5% (86)

*Source: 2000 U.S. Census.*

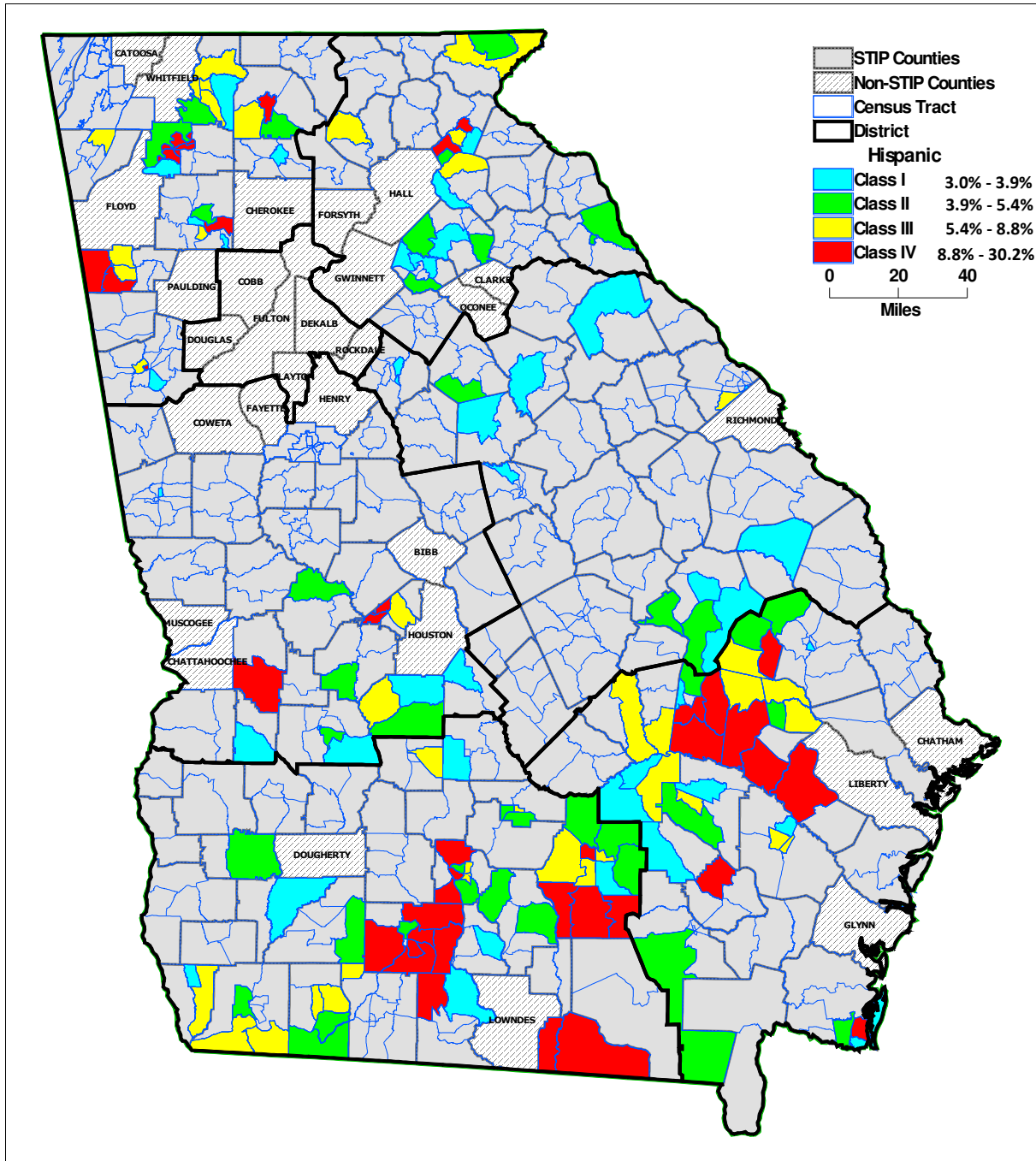
## V. STIP State Area Maps

The following section contains information on the variables (Minority, Hispanic, Low-income, and Elderly) calculated for the study to generate both the State and District Maps. It also contains all State Maps. District Maps can be found in Section VI below.

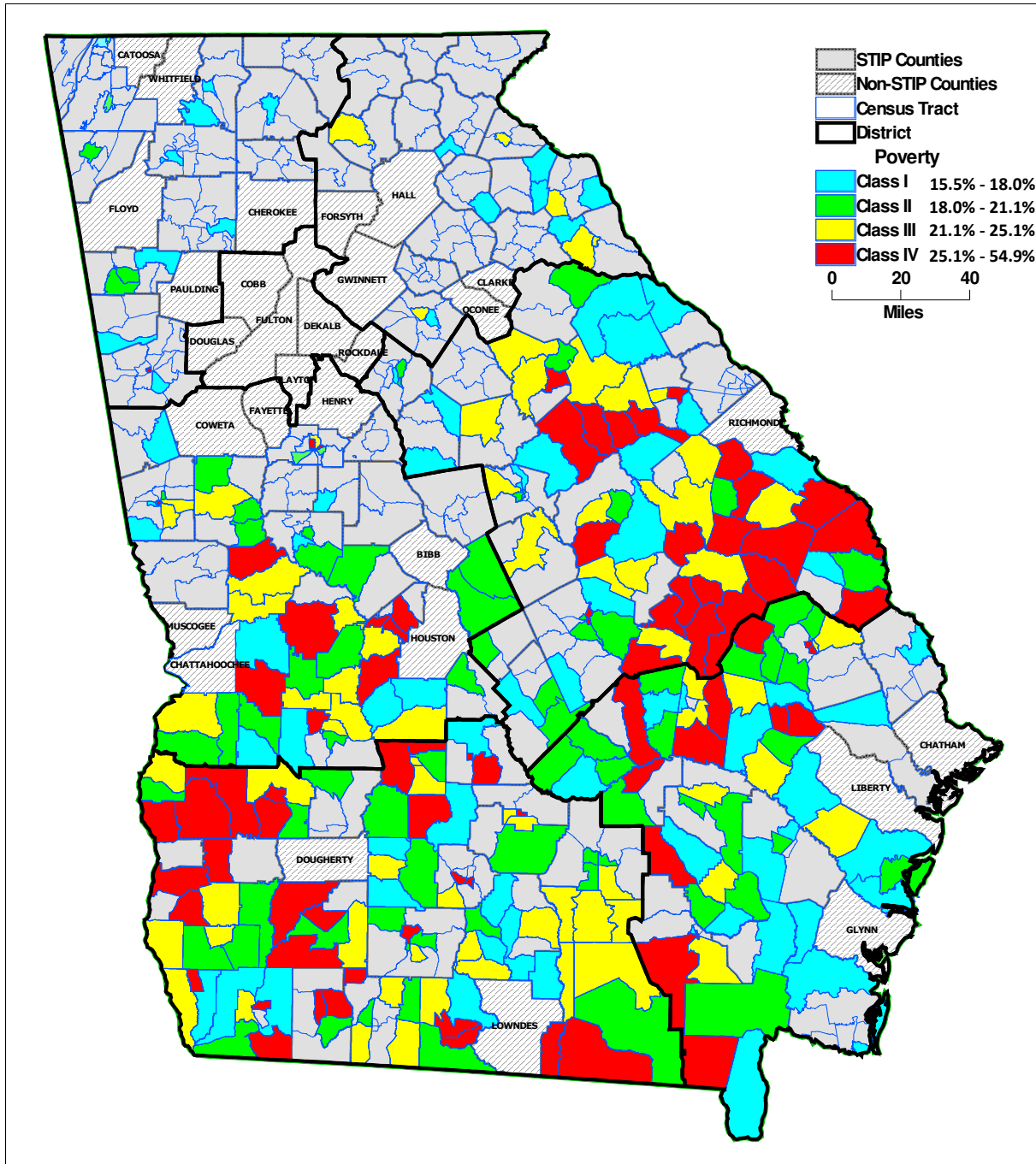
**Figure 2: STIP Area Minority EJ Population**



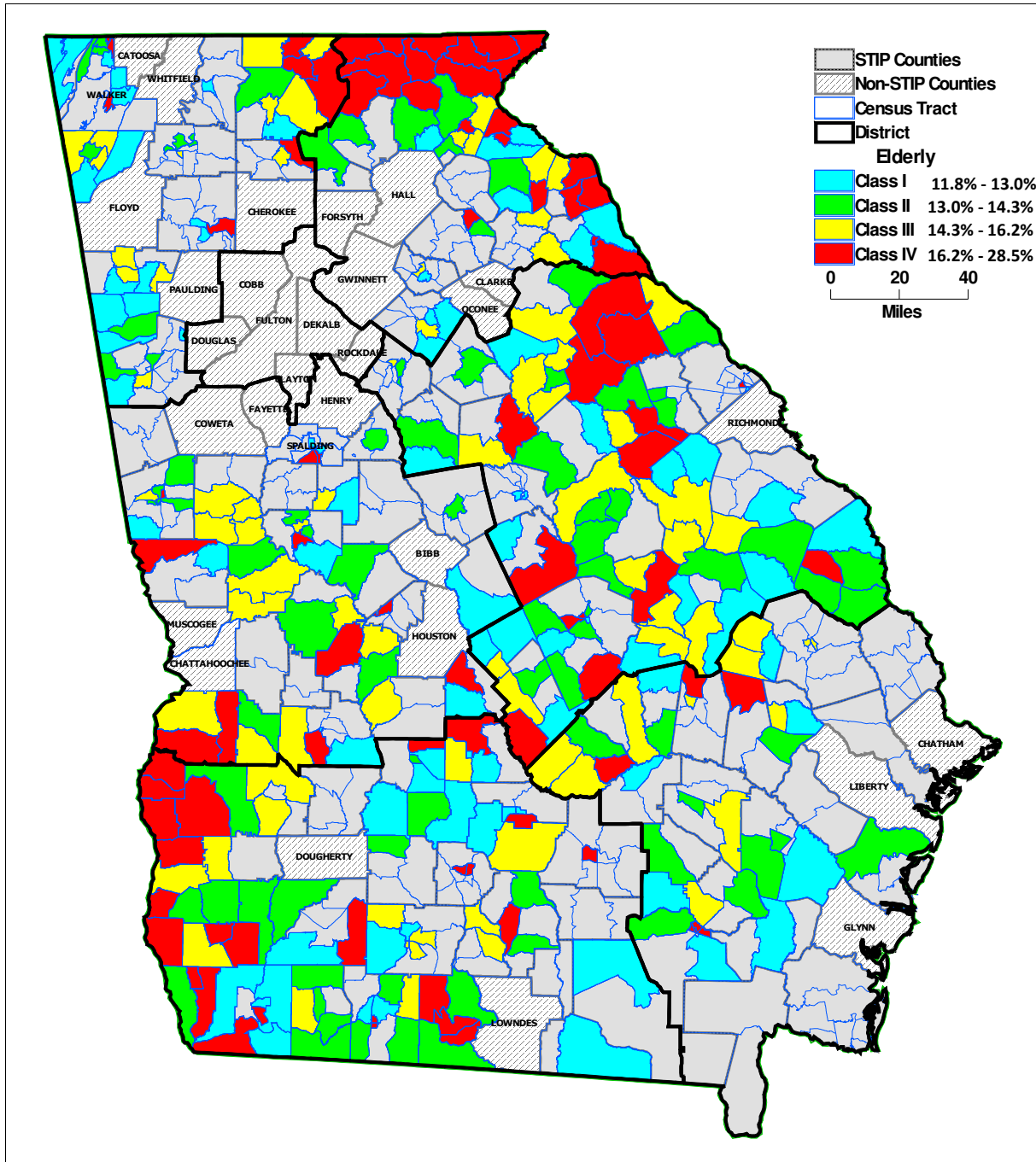
**Figure 3: STIP Area Hispanic EJ Population**



**Figure 4: STIP Area Low-Income EJ Population**



**Figure 5: STIP Area Elderly EJ Population**

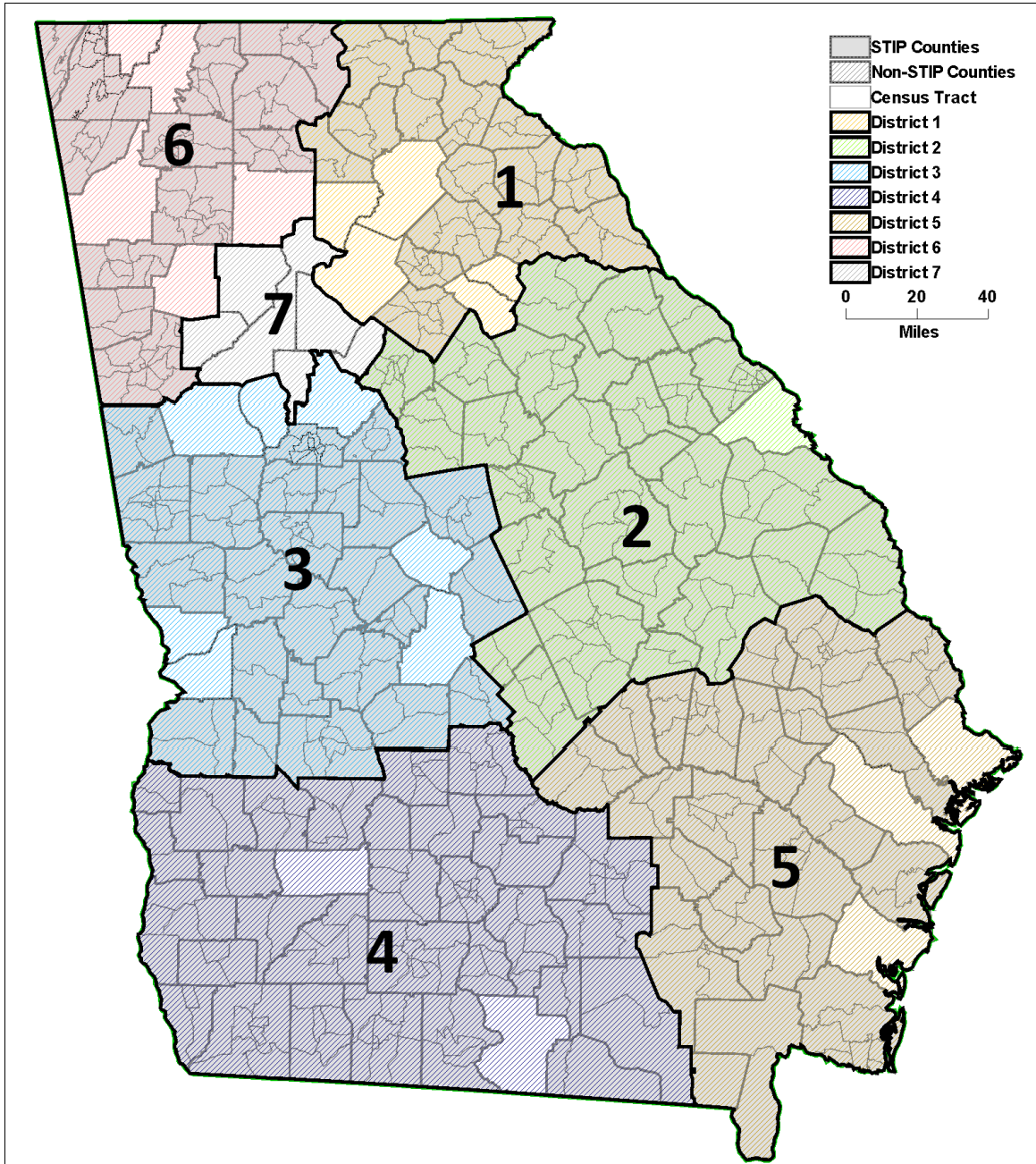


## VI. STIP District Area Maps

This section narrows the EJ analysis from the entire rural STIP area to the district level, providing two sets of information for each rural district. First, a summary of EJ populations based on Census data is provided for each district, including the location and intensity of the populations.

Similar to the maps in the body of the report, the district maps draw two geographic distinctions. The first is whether or not an area is above or below the EJ threshold. As mentioned previously, in addition to merely determining the EJ status of a population, each was placed in one of four classes, denoted Class I, Class II, Class III, or Class IV. A Class I population is only slightly higher than the EJ threshold, while a Class IV population is much higher.

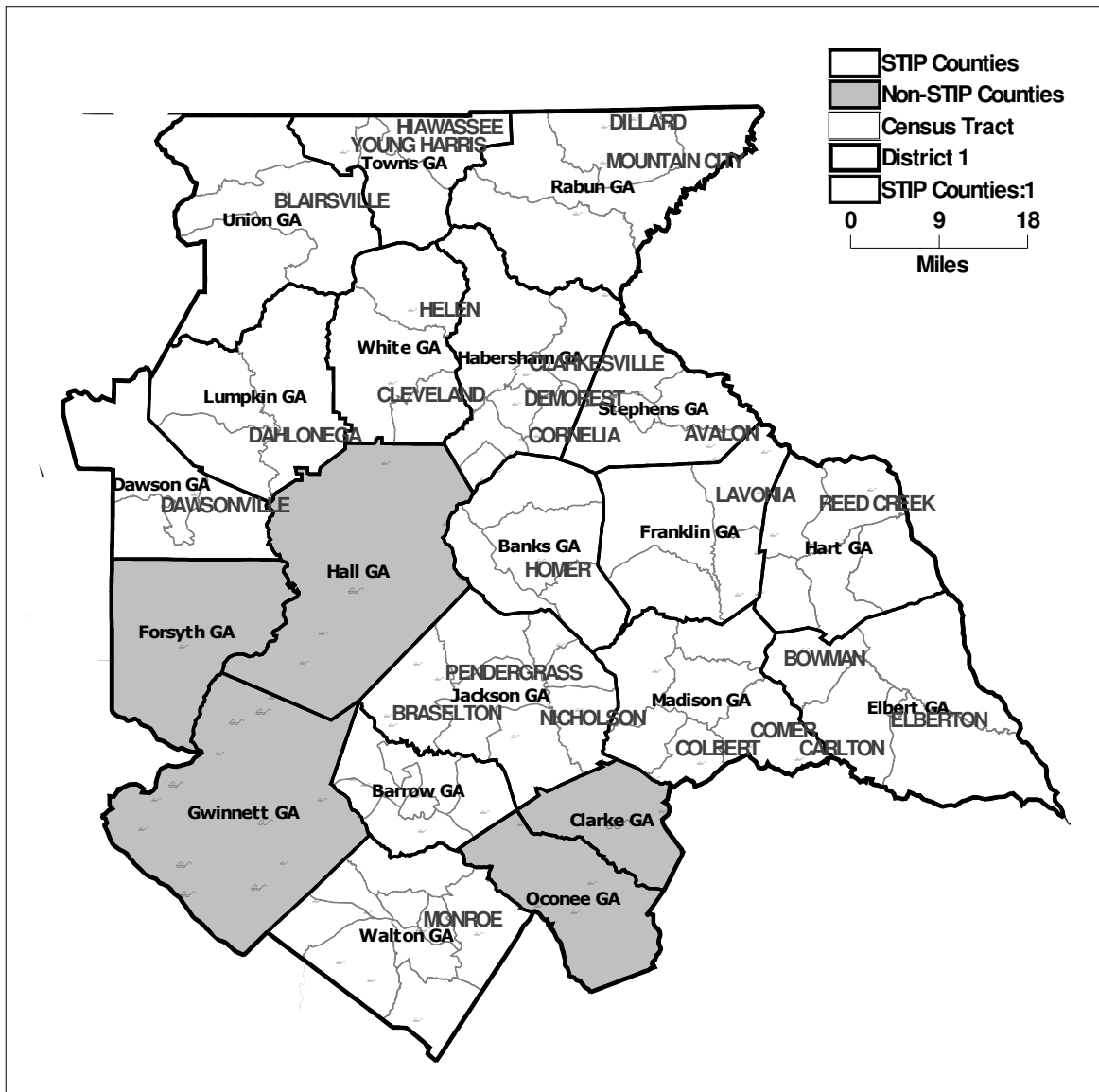
**Figure 6: Georgia DOT Districts**



## A. District 1

District 1 is located in northeastern Georgia and it consists of twenty-one counties, beginning directly northeast of the Atlanta metro area and stretching to the North Carolina and South Carolina borders. This study area consists of sixteen counties and does not include the five counties in District 1 that are under the authority of the MPOs. District 1 contains seventy-four census tracts of which nine (12.2%) are over the Minority EJ threshold, eighteen (24.3%) are over the Hispanic EJ threshold, thirteen (17.6%) are over the Low-Income EJ threshold, and forty-six (62.2%) are over the Elderly EJ threshold.

**Figure 7: District 1**

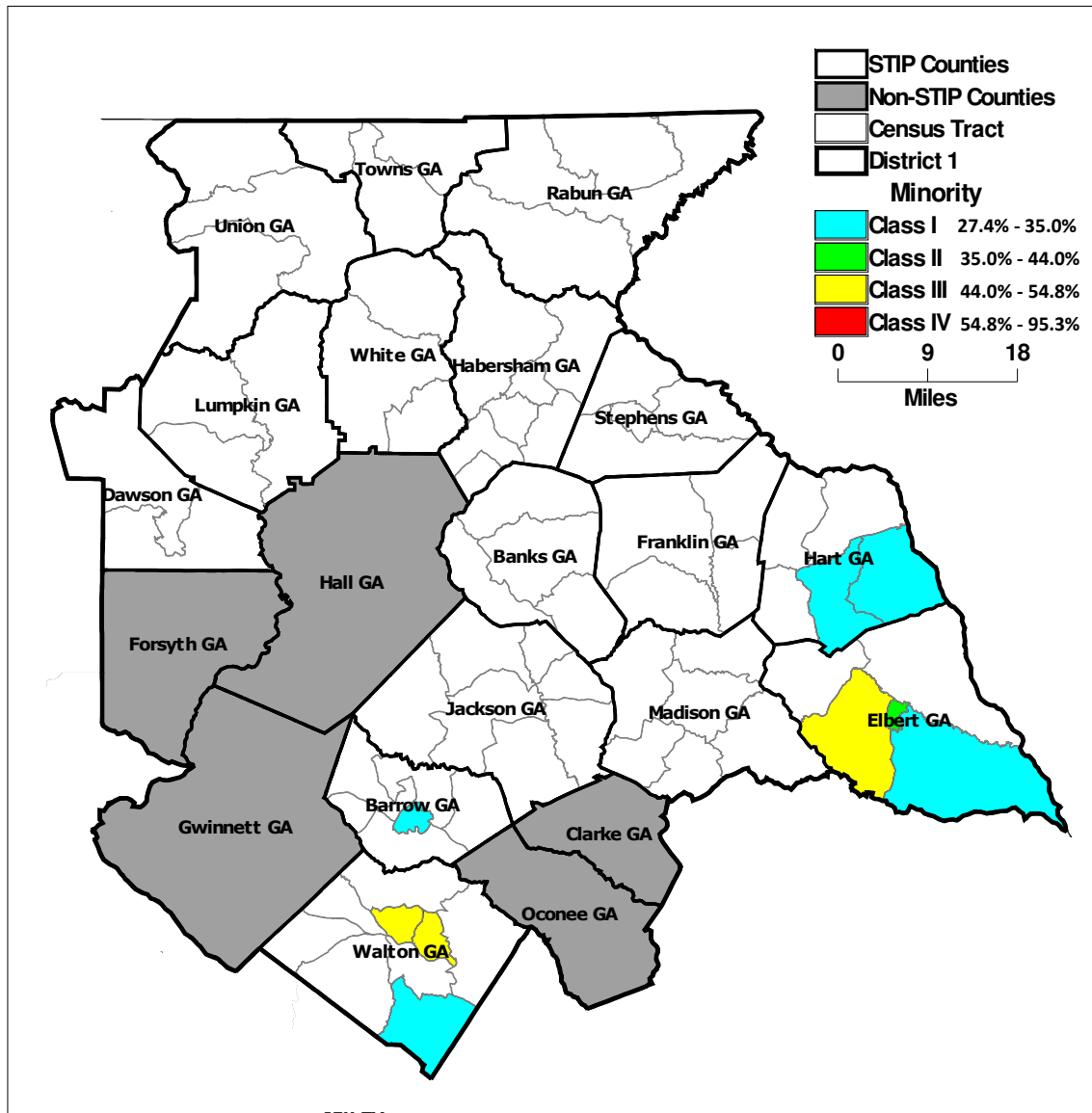


## 1. Minority EJ Population

Below is Figure 8 which is a map of the Minority EJ Population located in District 1. In this district only 12% of tracts have minority populations above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows that there are no Class IV tracts and three Class III tracts. The Class III tracts are located in the towns of Elberton (Elber County) and Monroe (Walton County). There is one Class II tract also located in the town of Elberton (Elber County). There are five Class I tracts in which two are located in the town of Hartwell (Hart County), one located in the

town of Winder (Barrow County), one located in the town of Social Circle (Walton County) and one located in the town of Elberton (Elbert County).

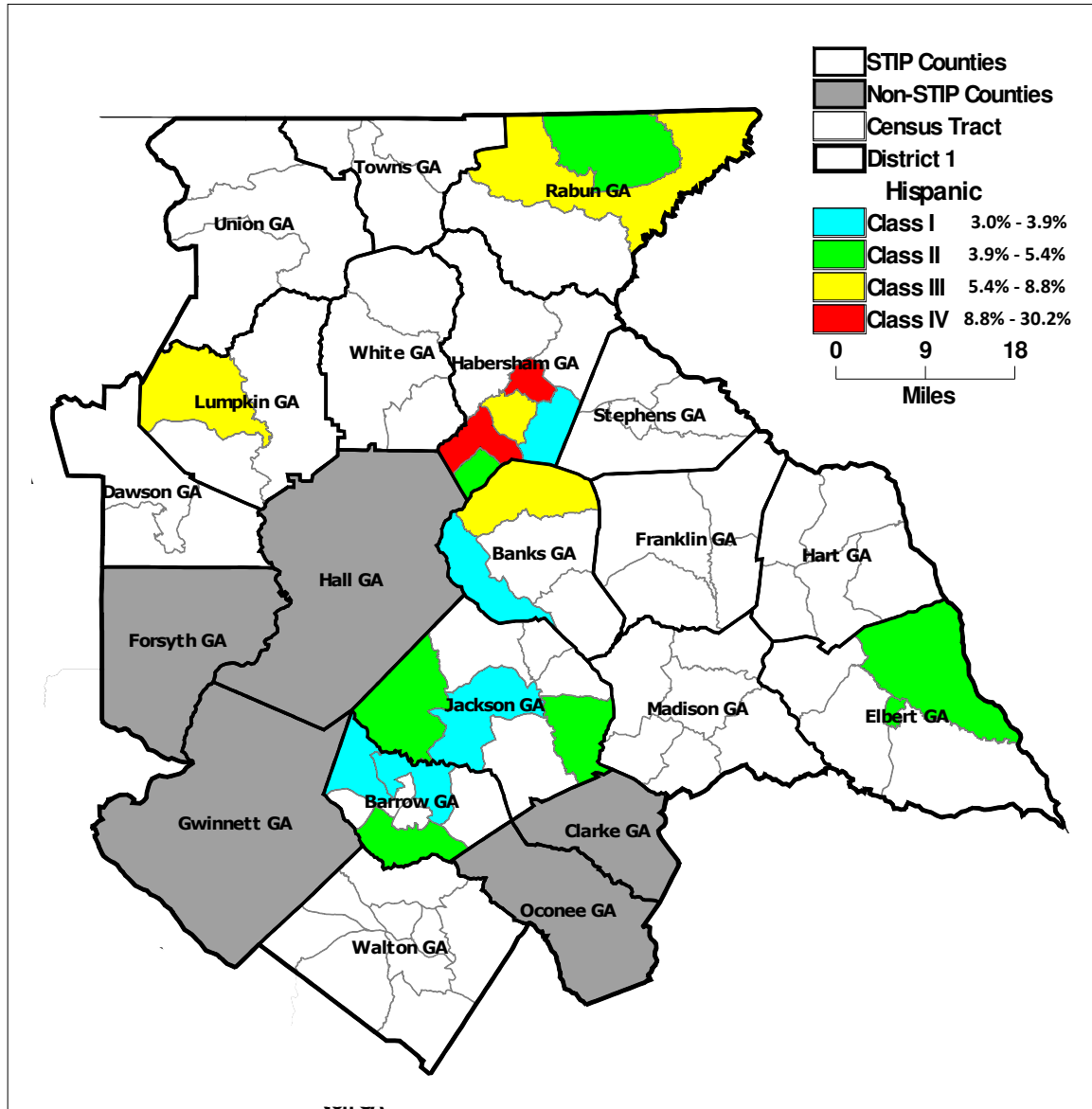
**Figure 8: District 1 – Minority EJ Population**



## 2. Hispanic EJ Population

Below is Figure 9 which is a map of the Hispanic EJ Population located in District 1.

**Figure 9: District 1 – Hispanic EJ Population**



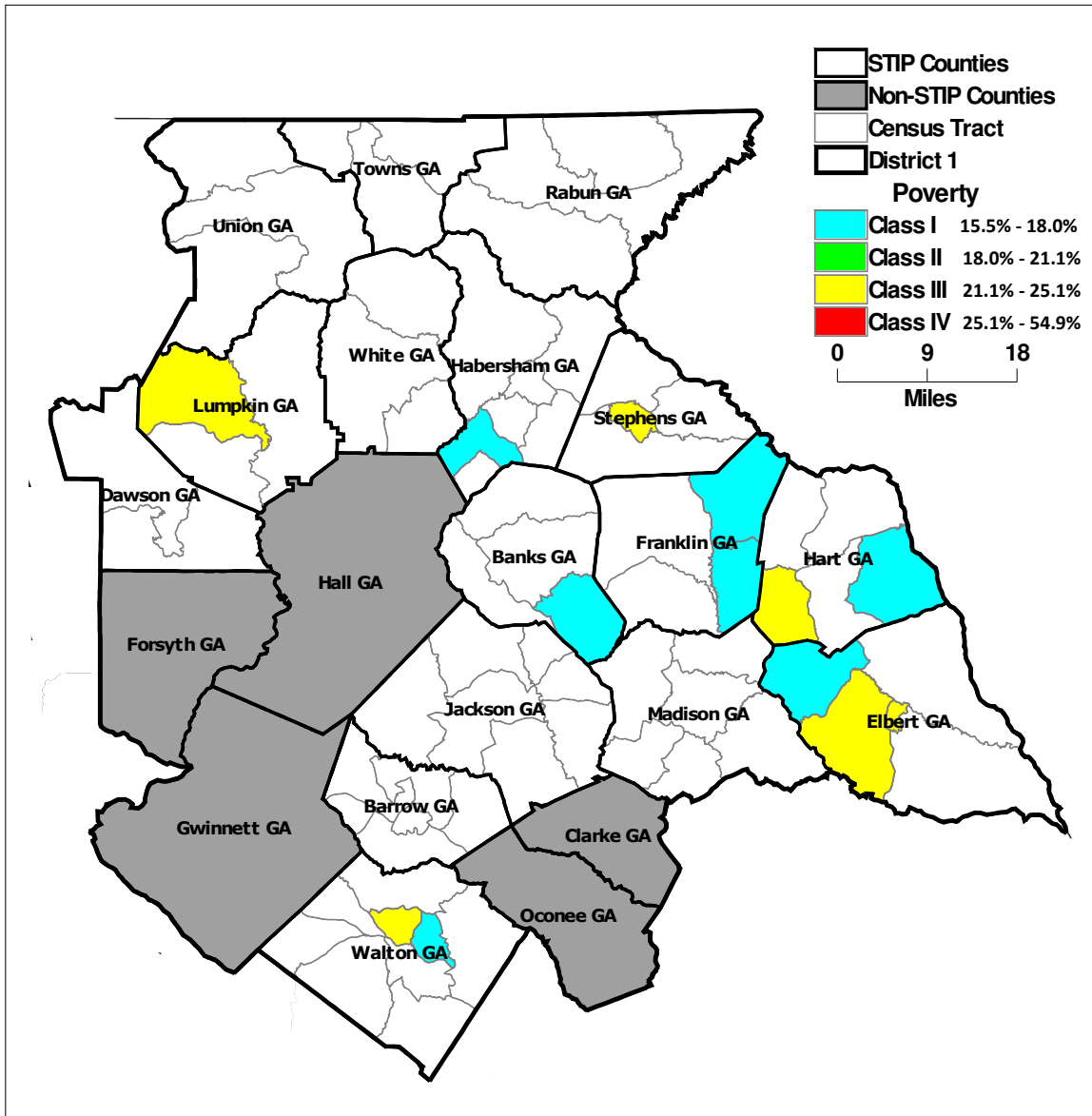
About 24% of the census tracts in the district are at or above the Hispanic EJ population threshold. The analysis shows that there are two Class IV census tracts located in the towns of Demorest and Clarksville (Habersham County). There are four Class III tracts, one located in the town of Demorest (Habersham County) and the others are located in Lumpkin, Banks, and Rabun Counties. There are seven Class II census tracts, one located

in Barrow County, two in Elbert County, one in Rabun County, two in Jackson County and one Habersham County. There are five Class I tracts located in four counties: two in Barrow County and one in Banks, Habersham and Jackson counties each.

### 3. Low-Income EJ Population

Below is Figure 10 which is a map of the Low-Income EJ Population located in District 1. Only 17.6% of the low-income EJ population census tracts fall under this category. There are no Class IV tracts in the district and six Class III tracts. Two Class III tracts are located in the town of Elberton (Elbert County), and one in the towns of Dahlonega (Lumpkin County), Royston (Hart County), Monroe (Walton County), and Toccoa (Stephens County) each. Additionally, there are seven Class I tracts, two located in Franklin county, and one on the counties of Walton, Elbert, Habersham, Hart, and Banks.

**Figure 10: District 1 – Low-Income EJ Population**

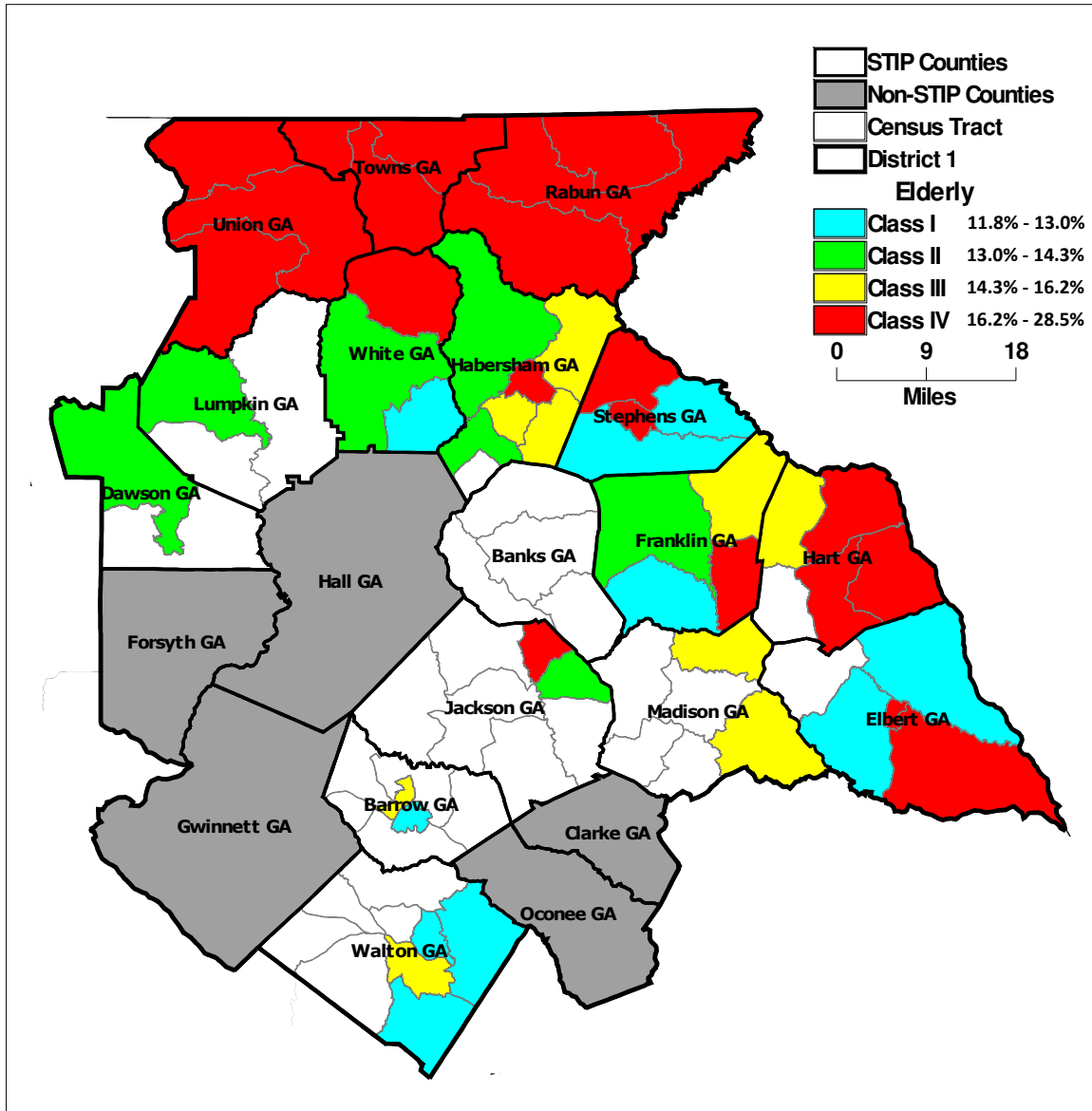


## 4. Elderly EJ Population

Below is Figure 11 which is a map of the Elderly EJ Population located in District 1. The elderly population is the most significant EJ population in the District with 62.2% of the census tracts included on this category. This is likely due to the large retirement community in the district. There are twenty Class IV tracts; three in the counties of Hart, Rabun, Towns, and Union; two in Elbert and Stephens counties; and one in Franklin, Habersham, Jackson, and White counties. Additionally, nine Class III tracts are located in

Habersham (three tracts), Madison (two tracts), Franklin, Hart, Barrow and Walton Counties. There were seven Class II tracts and ten Class I tracts in the district.

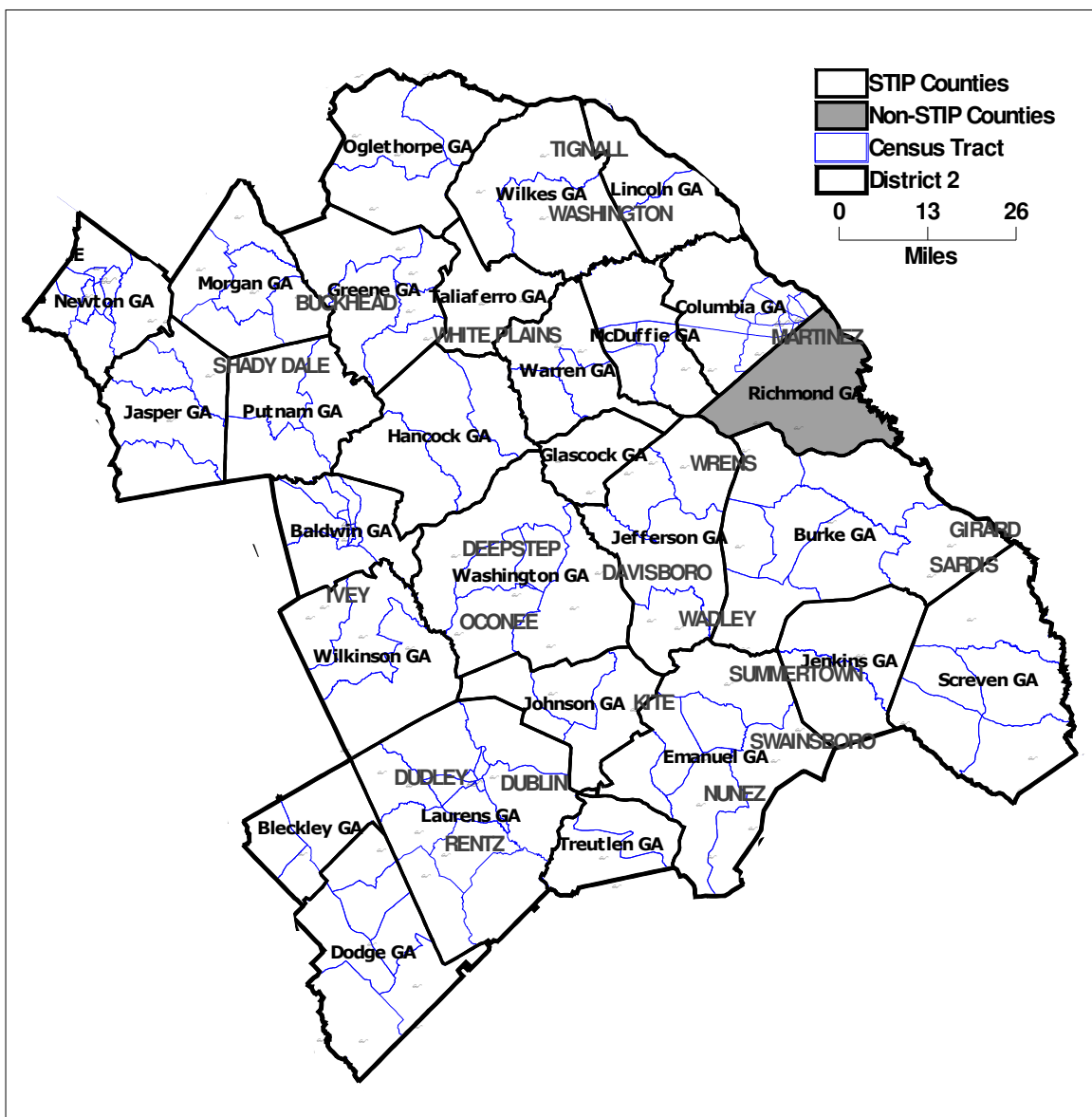
**Figure 11: District 1 – Elderly EJ Population**



## B. District 2

District 2 consists of 28 counties to the southeast of the Atlanta metro area, stretching to the South Carolina border. One county in District 2 is under the purview of a metropolitan planning organization and therefore not included in the rural STIP study area, leaving 27 in this assessment.

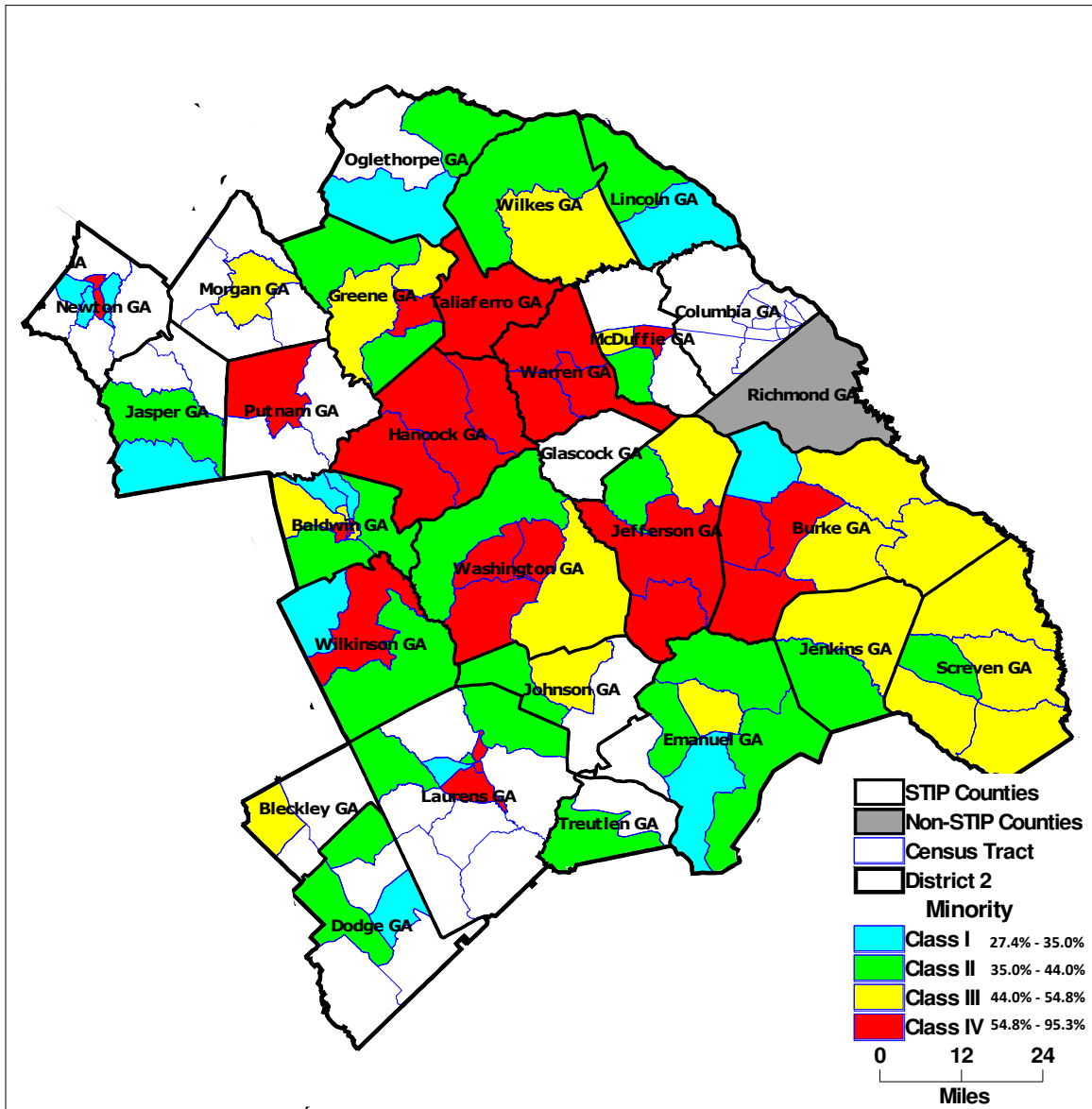
**Figure 12: District 2**



## 1. Minority EJ Population

Below is Figure 13 which is a map of the Minority EJ Population located in District 2.

**Figure 13: District 2 – Minority EJ Population**



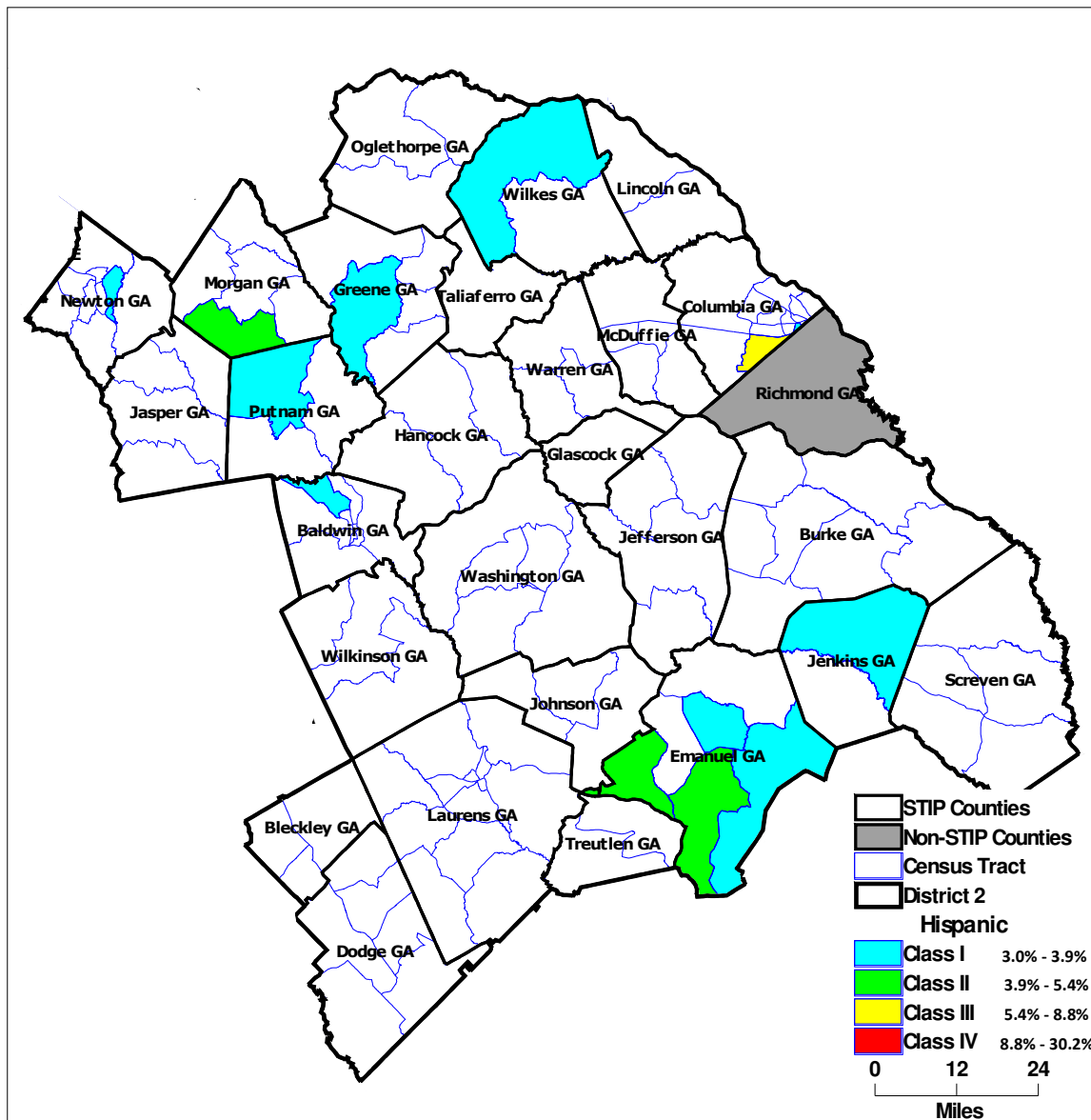
The minority population is the greatest EJ population in District 2, as 66.1% of all tracts in the district have populations above the Minority EJ threshold. The analysis shows twenty six Class IV tracts located in the following counties: Baldwin (two tracts), Burke (three tracts), Green (one tract), Hancock (three tracts), Jefferson (two tracts), Newton (two tracts), Laurens (three tracts), Putnam (one tract), Taliaferro (one tract), McDuffie (one

tract), Warren (three tracts), Washington (three tracts), and Wilkinson (one tract). Twenty-one Class III tracts are found in Screven (four tracts), Jenkins (one tract), Emanuel (one tract), Johnson (one tract), Bleckley (one tract), Washington (one tract), Greene (two tracts), Wilkes (one tract), Morgan (one tract), McDuffie (one tract), Jefferson (one tract), Baldwin (three tracts), and Burke (three tracts). The analysis also shows twenty-three Class II tracts and thirteen Class I tracts across the district.

## 2. Hispanic EJ Population

Below is Figure 14 which is a map of the Hispanic EJ Population located in District 2. Hispanic EJ populations are not frequent in District 2, as only 10.2% of tracts have a Hispanic population above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows no Class IV and one class III tract in the town of Martinez (Columbia County). There are three Class II tracts with two in the town of Nunez (Emanuel County) and one in Morgan County. Additionally, there are eight Class I census tracts in the district.

**Figure 14: District 2 – Hispanic EJ Population**

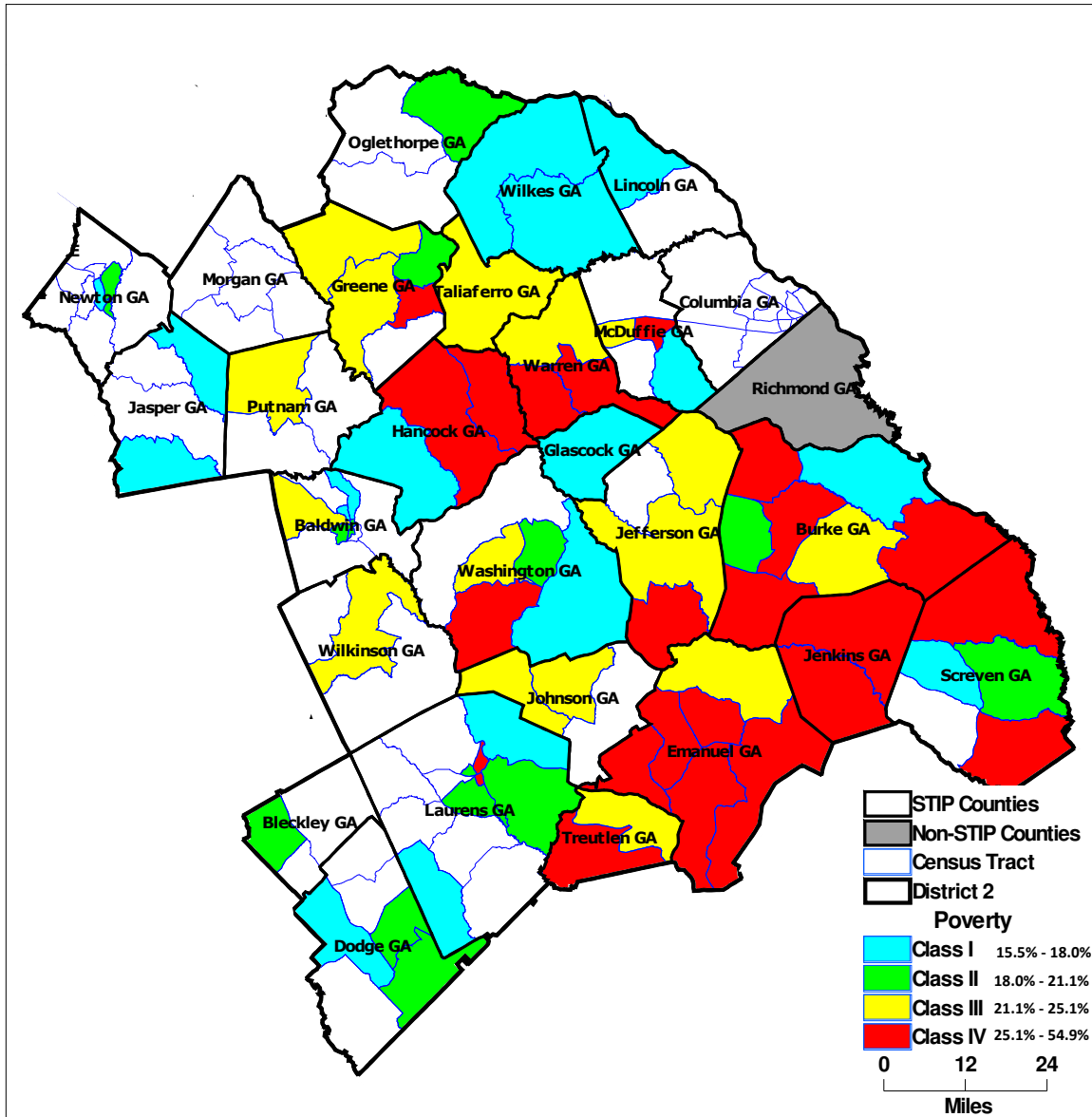


### 3. Low-Income EJ Population

Below is Figure 15 which is a map of the Low-Income EJ Population located in District 2. 55.9% of tracts have a low-income population above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows twenty four Class IV tracts in Emanuel, Screven, Jenkins, Treutlen, Laurens, Washington,

Burke, Greene, Hancock, Jefferson, and Warren Counties. There are sixteen Class III tracts and fourteen Class II tracts. There are a total of seventeen Class I tracts.

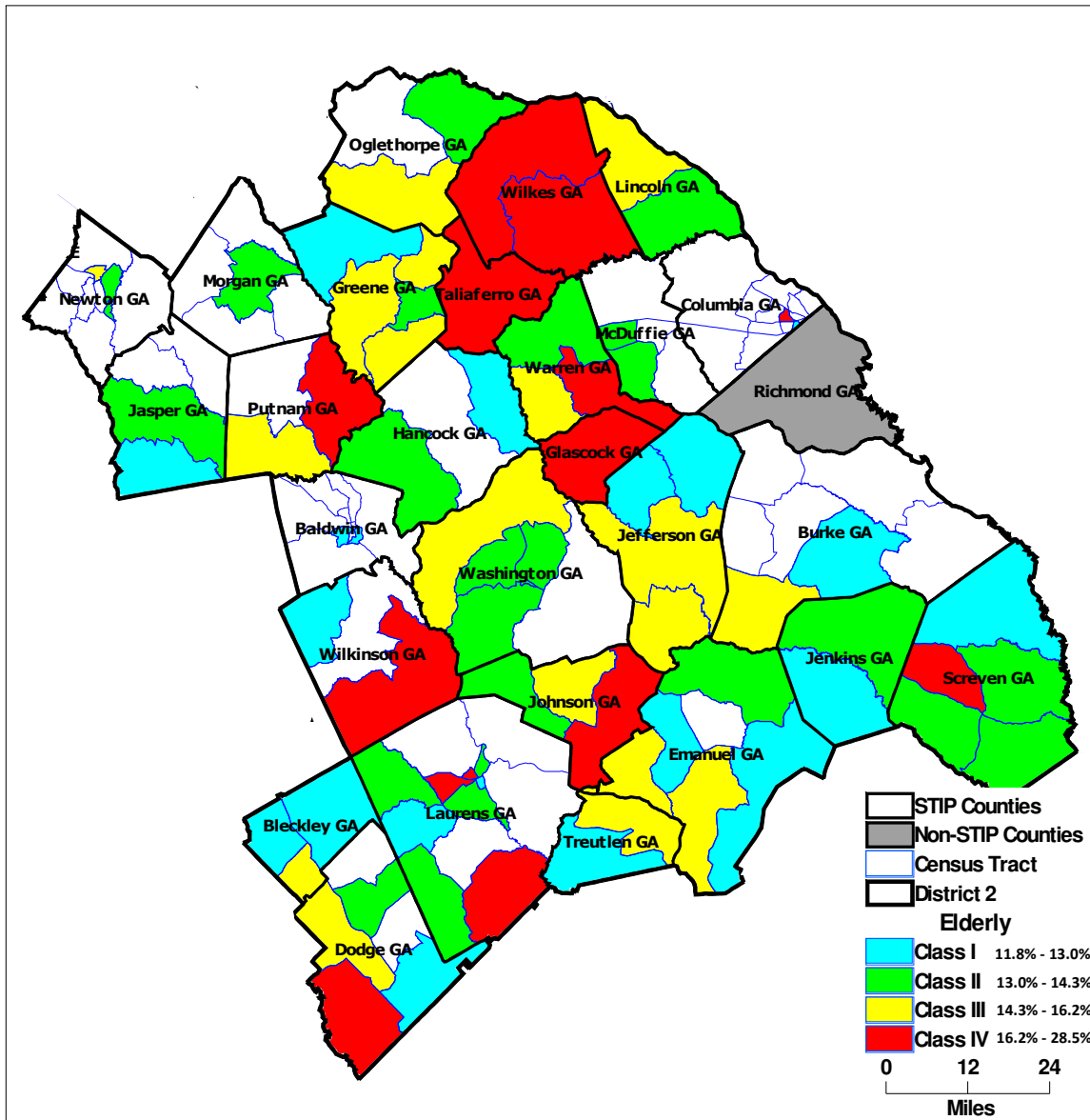
**Figure 15: District 2 – Low-Income EJ Population**



## 4. Elderly EJ Population

Below is Figure 16 which is a map of the Elderly EJ Population located in District 2.

**Figure 16: District 2 – Elderly EJ Population**

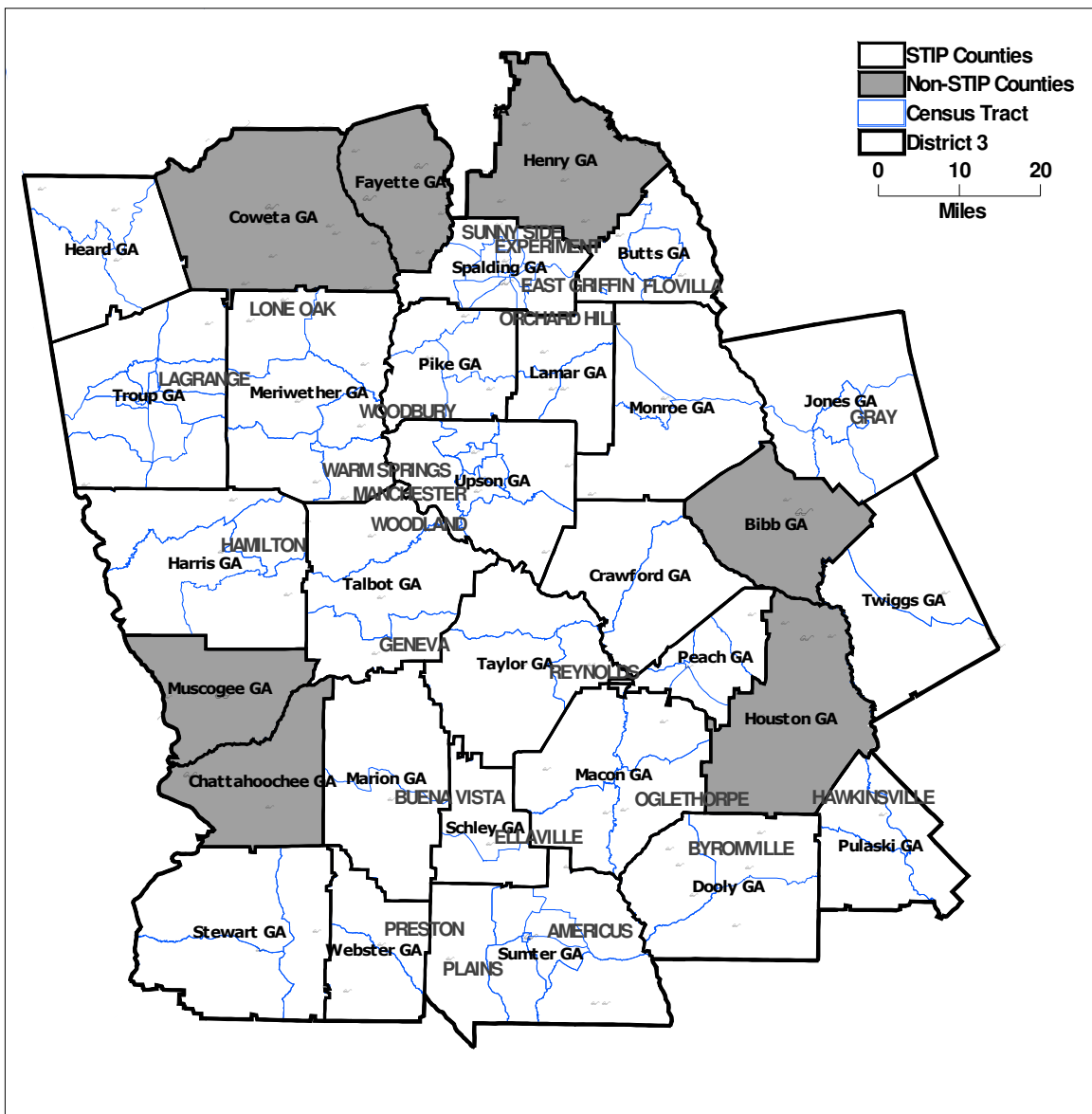


In District 2, as 59.8% of tracts have an elderly population above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows fourteen Class IV tracts in Columbia, Dodge, Glascock, Johnson, Laurens, Putnam, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes, and Wilkinson Counties. Eighteen Class III tracts exist in Emanuel, Treutlen, Dodge, Johnson, Jefferson, Washington, Putnam, Green, Lincoln, Oglethorpe, Warren, and Newton. Additionally, twenty-four Class II and nineteen Class I EJ tracts were found in the district.

### C. District 3

District 3 consists of 31 counties to the southwest of the Atlanta metro area. Seven counties in District 3 are under the purview of a metropolitan planning organization and therefore not included in the rural STIP study area, leaving twenty-four in this assessment. The District is located to the southwest of the Atlanta metro area, stretching to the Alabama border.

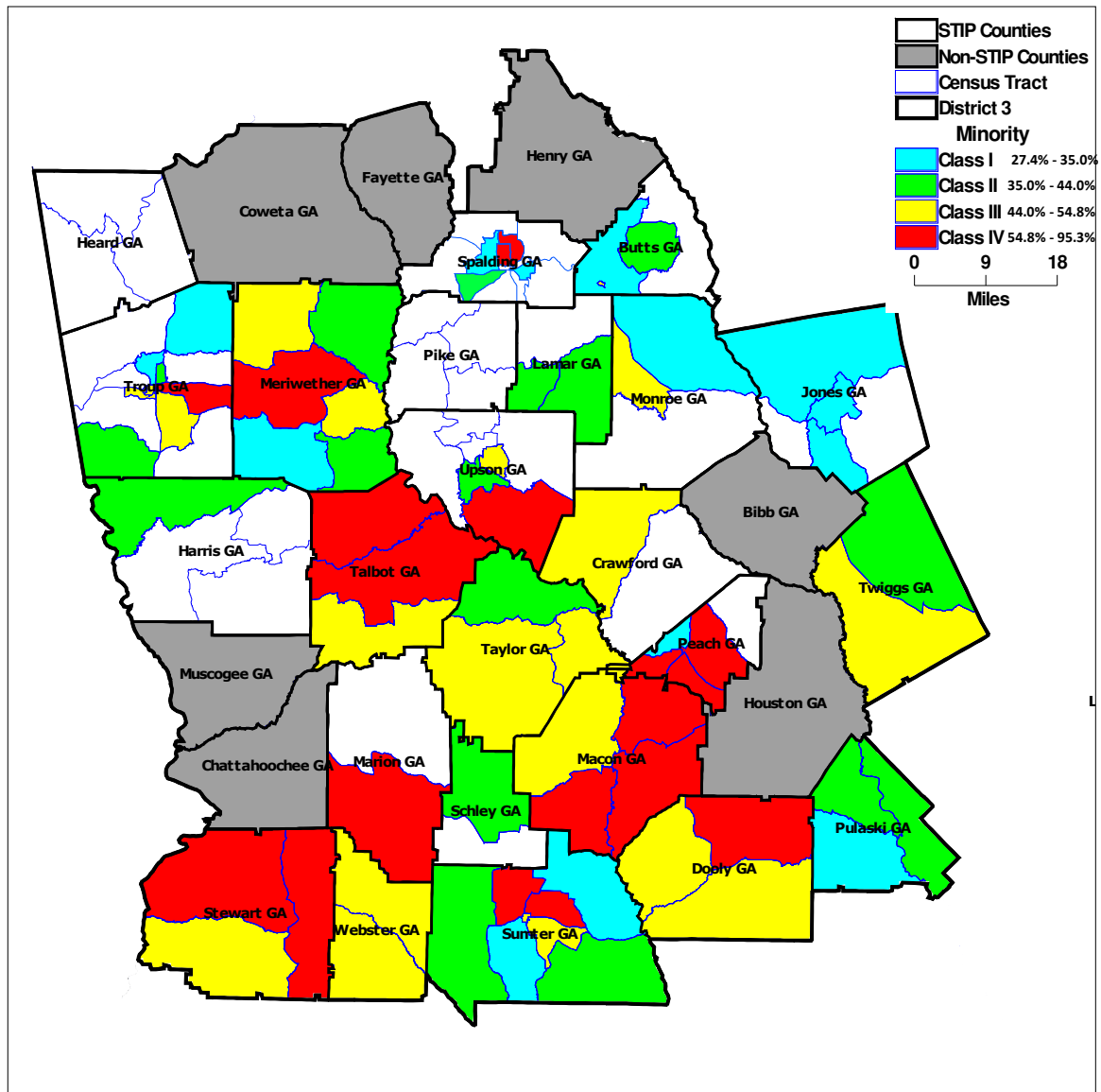
### Figure 17: District 3



## 1. Minority EJ Population

Below is Figure 18 which is a map of the Minority EJ Population located in District 3.

**Figure 18: District 3 – Minority EJ Population**



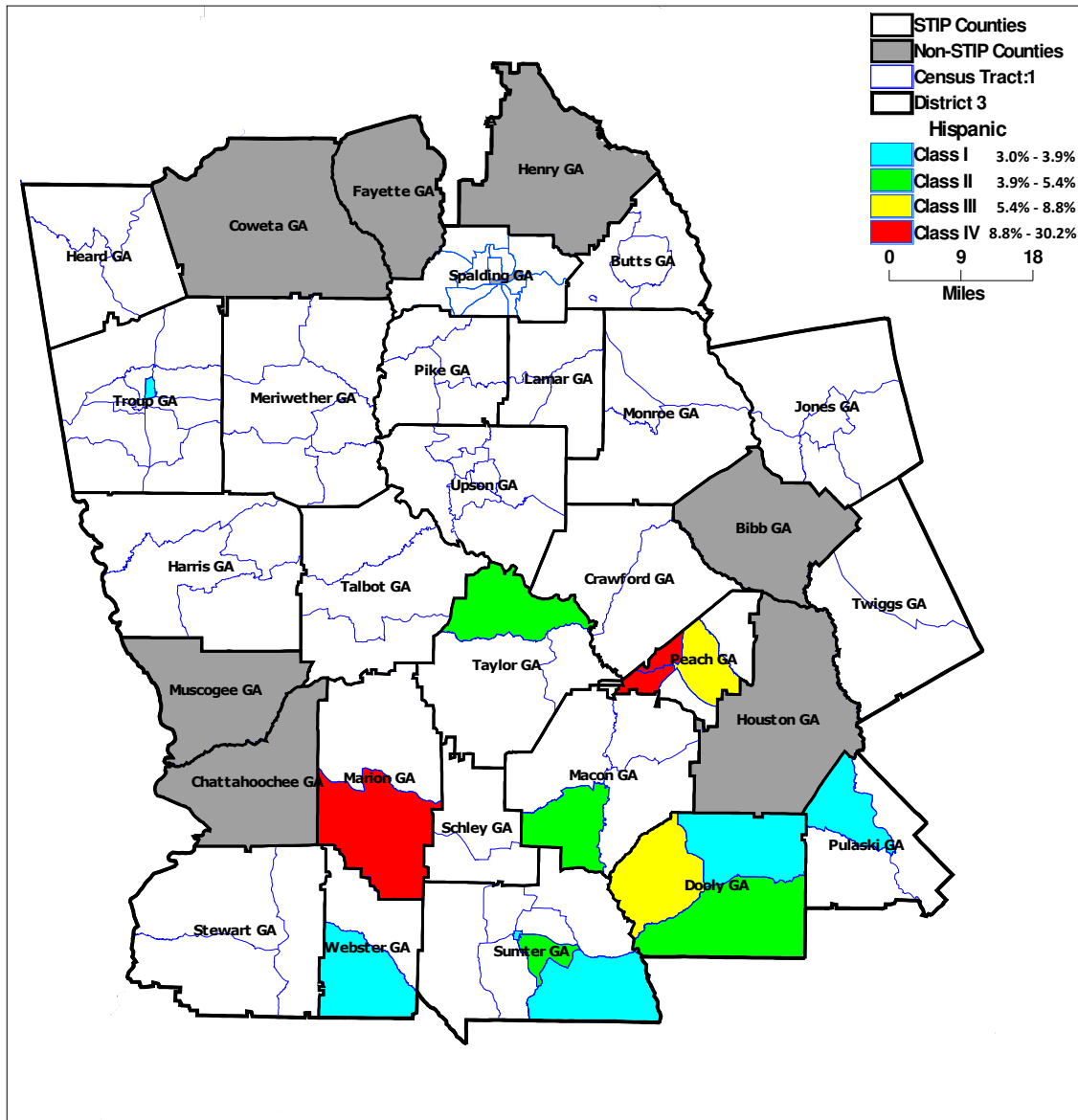
The EJ population of significance for District 3 is the minority population, as 74.5% of all tracts in the district are above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows seventeen Class IV tracts in Macon (three tracts), Peach (three tracts), Stewart (two tracts), Sumter (two tracts), Spalding (two tracts), Talbot (two tracts), Dooly (one tract), Marion (one tract), Meriwether (one tract), Upson (one tract), and Troup (one tract) counties. Twenty Class

III tracts can be found across Troup (three tracts), Meriwether (two tracts), Sumter (two tracts), Dooly (two tracts), Taylor (two tracts), Twiggs (one tract), Macon (one tract), Monroe (one tract), Crawford (one tract), Stewart (one tract), Talbot (one tract), Upson (one tract), and Webster (two tracts) counties. Additionally, there are seventeen Class II tracts and fourteen Class I tracts in the District.

## 2. Hispanic EJ Population

Below is Figure 19 which is a map of the Hispanic EJ Population located in District 3.

**Figure 19: District 3 – Hispanic EJ Population**

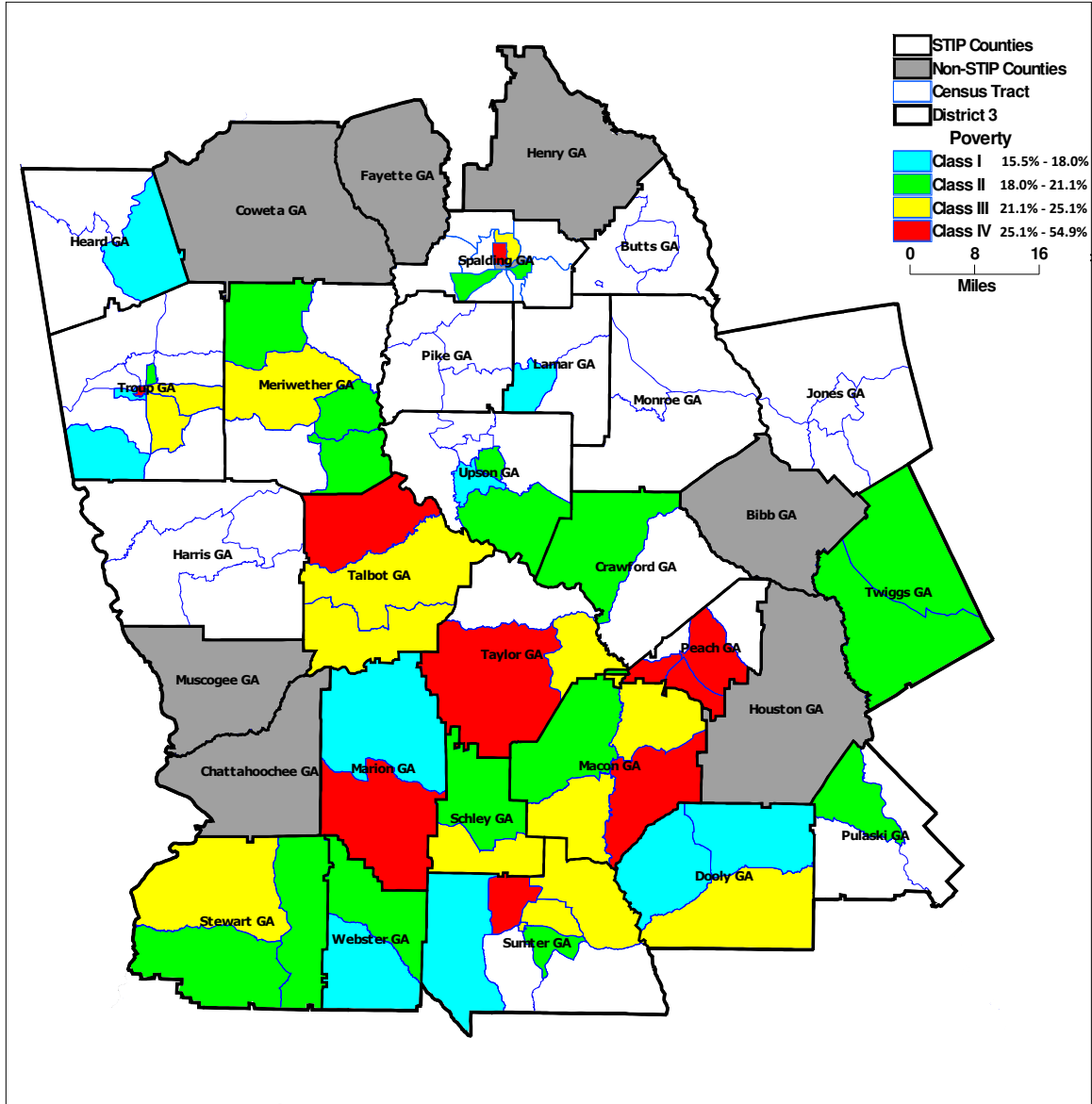


In District 3, 16.0% of tracts have a Hispanic population above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows four Class IV tracts in the towns of Fort Valley (Peach) and Buena Vista (Marion), and two Class III tracts, located in Dooly and Peach counties. There are four Class II tracts found in Dooly, Macon, Taylor, and Sumter Counties. Six Class I tracts exist across five counties.

### 3. Low-Income EJ Population

Below is Figure 20 which is a map of the Low-Income EJ Population located in District 3. Low-income populations above the EJ threshold are found in 52.1% of the District census tracts. The analysis shows ten Class IV tracts: three in Fort Valley (Peach County), and one in the towns of Oglethorpe (Macon), Butler (Taylor), Experiment (Spalding), Americus (Sumter), Woodland (Talbot), Buena Vista (Marion), and LeGrange (Troup) each. There are fifteen Class III tracts found in Macon (two tracts), Dooly (one tract), Sumter (three tracts), Stewart (one tract), Spalding (one tract), Talbot (two tracts), Troup (two tracts), Meriwether (one tract), Taylor (one tract), and Schley (one tract) counties. There are eighteen Class II tracts and ten Class I tracts.

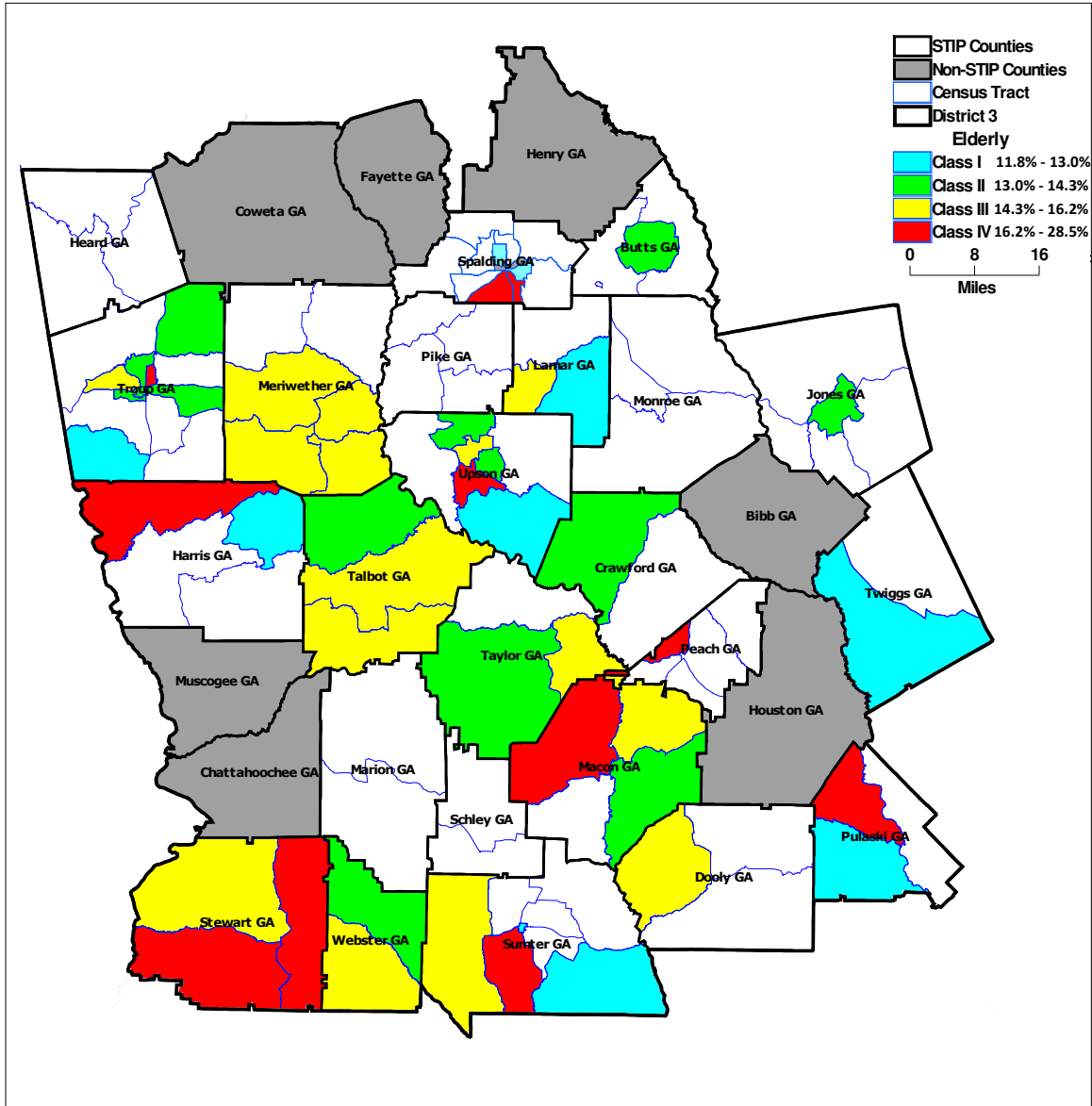
**Figure 20: District 3 – Low-Income EJ Population**



## 4. Elderly EJ Population

Below is Figure 21 which is a map of the Elderly EJ Population located in District 3. Elderly populations above the EJ threshold are found in 46.3% of tracts. The analysis shows eleven Class IV tracts located in Macon (one tract), Pulaski (one tract), Sumter (one tract), Stewart (two tracts), Peach (one tract), Troup (one tract), Harris (one tract), Spalding (two tracts) and Upson (one tract) counties. There are fifteen Class III tracts across Dooly (one tract), Meriwether (four tracts), Macon (one tract), Talbot (two tracts), Taylor (one tract), Upson (one tract), Lamar (one tract), Sumter (one tract), Webster (one tract), Stewart (one tract) and Troup (one tract) counties. Additionally, there are fourteen Class II tracts and ten Class I tracts.

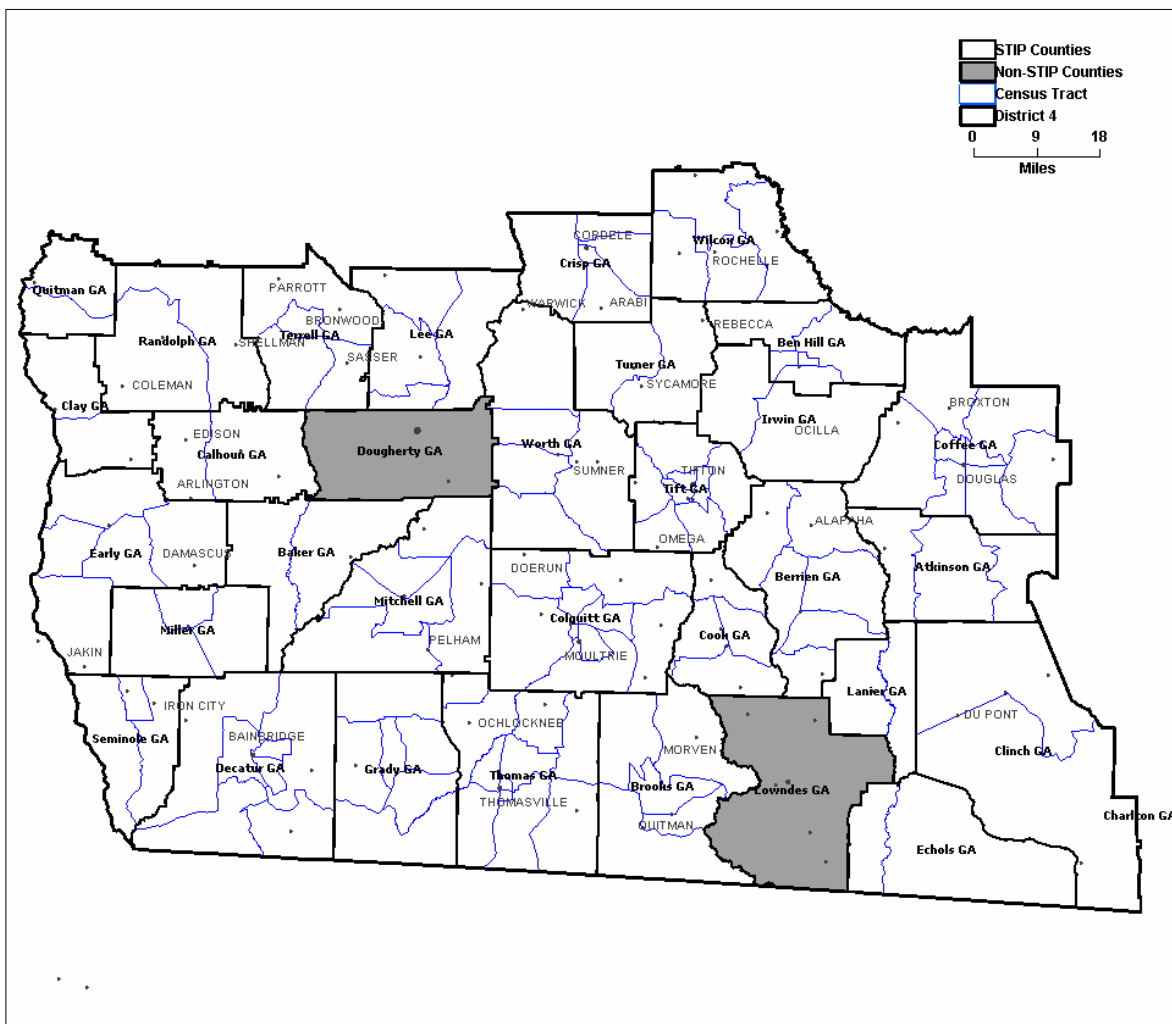
**Figure 21: District 3 – Elderly EJ Population**



#### D. District 4

District 4 consists of 32 counties in the southwestern corner of Georgia. Two counties in District 4 are under the purview of a metropolitan planning organization and therefore not included in the rural STIP study area, leaving 30 counties in this assessment.

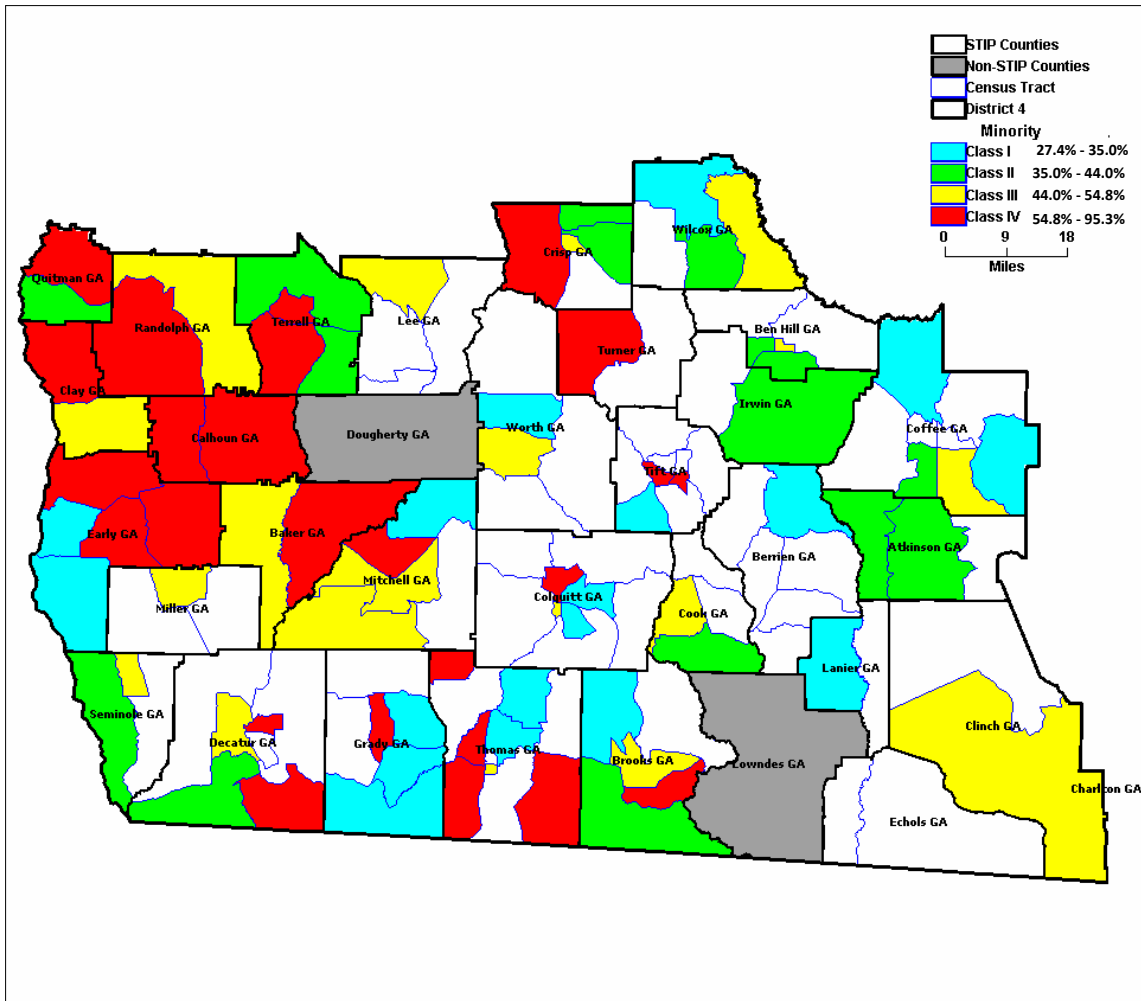
### Figure 22: District 4



## 1. Minority EJ Population

Below is Figure 23 which is a map of the Minority EJ Population located in District 4.

**Figure 23: District 4 – Minority EJ Population**



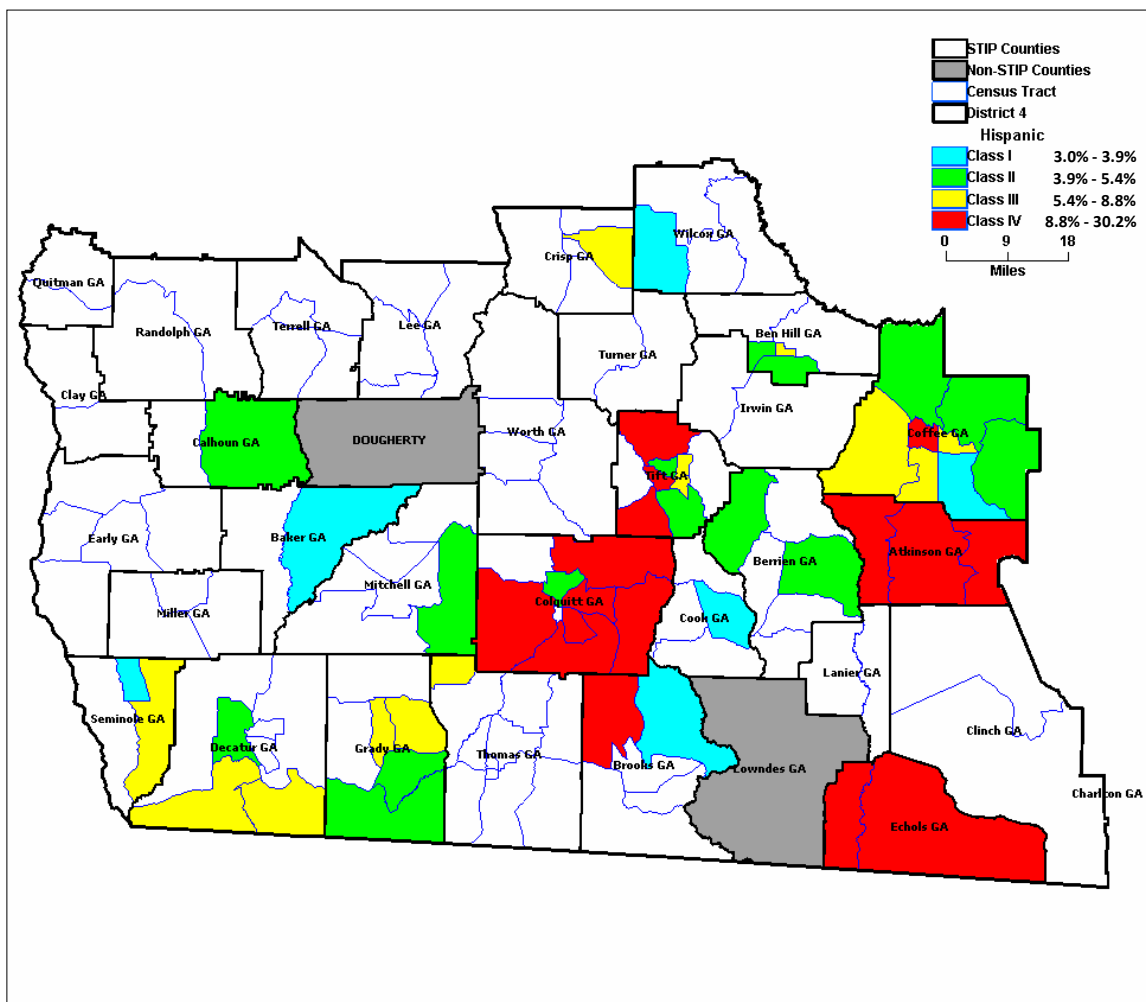
Minority populations above the EJ threshold are found in 59.5% of all District 4 tracts. The analysis shows that there are twenty-five Class IV tracts exist in Quitman (one tract), Randolph (one tract), Clay (one tract), Crisp (one tract), Tift (two tracts), Colquitt (one tract), Brooks (one tract), Grady (one tract), Mitchell (one tract), Terrell (two tracts), Turner (one tract), Decatur (two tracts), Thomas (four tracts), Baker (one tract), Calhoun (two tracts), and Early (three tracts) counties. There are nineteen Class III tracts in the counties of Wilcox (one tract), Coffee (one tract), Clinch (one tract), Ben Hill (one tract), Brooks (one tract), Cook (one tract), Crisp (one tract), Lee (one tract), Randolph (one

tract), Clay (one tract), Miller (one tract), Baker (one tract), Mitchell (two tracts), Colquitt (one tract), Seminole (one tract), Decatur (one tract), Thomas (one tract), and Worth (one tract). Additionally, there are sixteen Class II tracts and eighteen Class I tracts in District 4.

## 2. Hispanic EJ Population

Below is Figure 24 which is a map of the Hispanic EJ Population located in District 4.

**Figure 24: District 4 – Hispanic EJ Population**



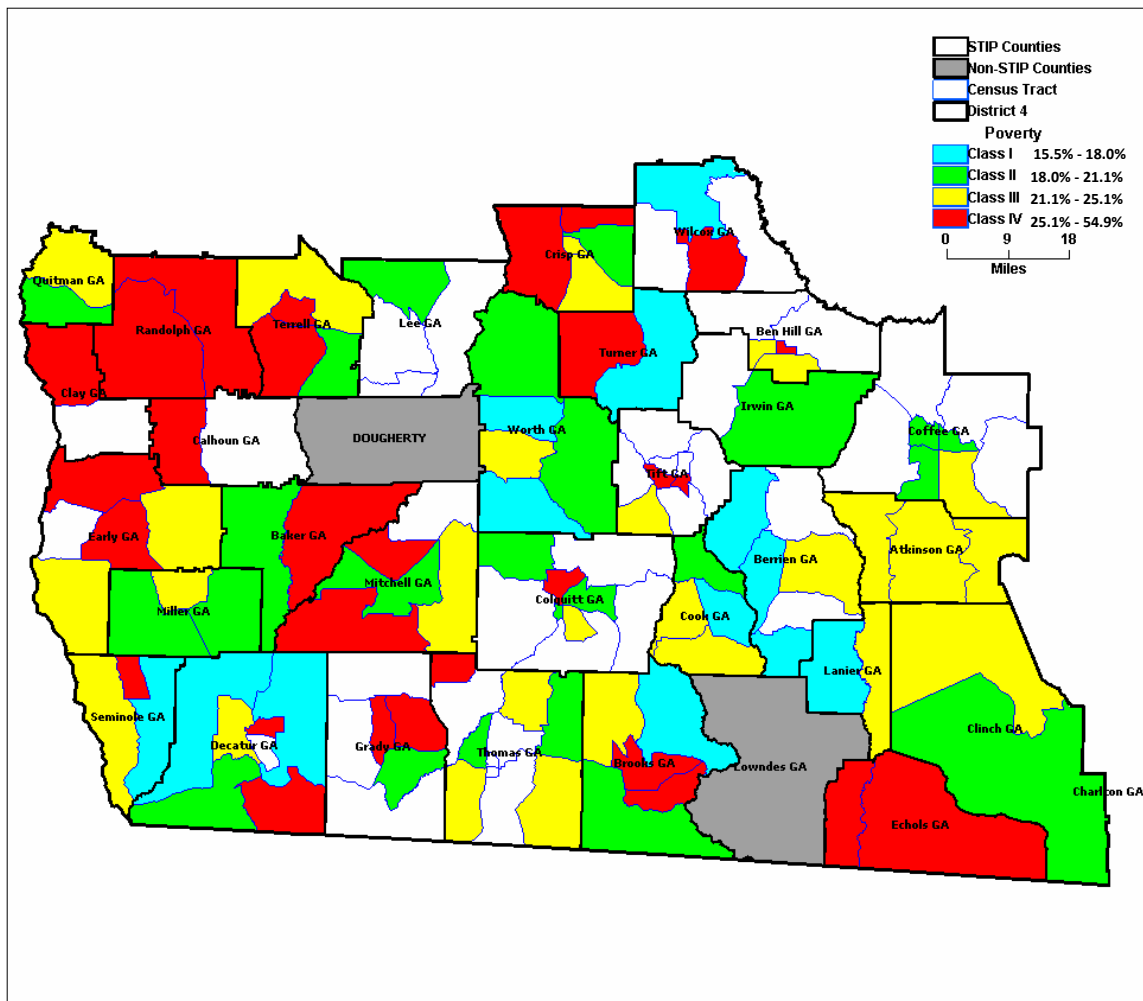
Hispanic populations above the EJ threshold are found in 38.8% of tracts. The analysis shows sixteen Class IV tracts: three in Tift County (Tift County), one in Quitman (Brooks), one in Douglas (Coffee), six in Moultrie (Colquitt), three in Pearson (Atkinson), and two in

Echols County. There are thirteen Class III tracts in the counties of Crisp (one tract), Coffee (three tracts), Tift (two tracts), Thomas (one tract), Seminole (one tract), Decatur (two tracts), Grady (two tracts), and Ben Hill (one tract). Additionally, there are fourteen Class II tracts and six Class I tracts in the district.

### 3. Low-Income EJ Population

Below is Figure 25 which is a map of the Low-Income EJ Population located in District 4.

**Figure 25: District 4 – Low-Income EJ Population**



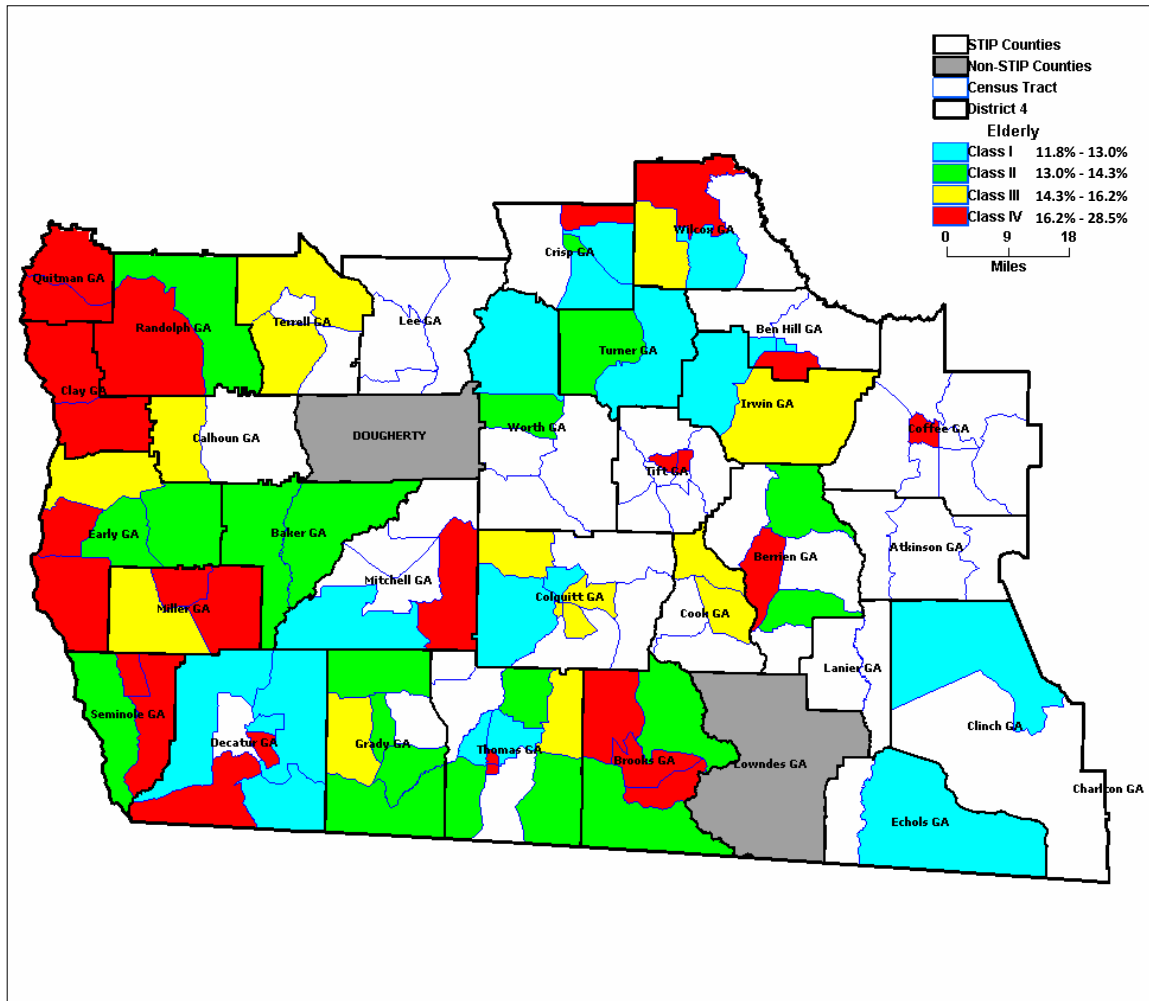
Low-income EJ populations are a major category for District 4, as 71.8% of all tracts in the district have populations above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows twenty nine Class IV tracts in Clay (one tract), Brooks (two tracts), Grady (two tracts), Decatur (two tracts),

Echols (two tracts), Mitchell (two tracts), Seminole (one tract), Early (two tracts), Calhoun (one tract), Randolph (two tracts), Terrell (two tracts), Wilcox (one tract), Ben Hill (one tract), Turner (one tract), Crisp (two tracts), Colquit (one tract), Thomas (one tract), Baker (one tract), and Tift (two tracts) counties and twenty-seven Class III tracts. Additionally, there are twenty-four Class II tracts and thirteen Class I tracts.

## 4. Elderly EJ Population

Below is Figure 26 which is a map of the Elderly EJ Population located in District 4. Elderly populations above the EJ threshold in District 4 were found in 61.1% of all tracts. The analysis shows twenty-six Class IV tracts in the counties of Clay (two tracts), Crisp (one tract), Randolph (one tract), Quitman (two tracts), Tift (two tracts), Ben Hill (one tract), Berrien (one tract), Brooks (three tracts), Mitchell (one tract), Early (two tracts), Miller (two tracts), Seminole (two tracts), Decatur (two tracts), Coffee (one tract), Thomas (two tracts), and Wilcox (one tract). There are fifteen Class III tracts in the counties of Wilcox (one tract), Cook (two tracts), Irwin (one tract), Terrell (two tracts), Calhoun (one tract), Grady (one tract), Thomas (one tract), Colquitt (four tracts), Miller (one tract), and Early (one tract). Additionally, there are twenty Class II tracts and nineteen Class I tracts.

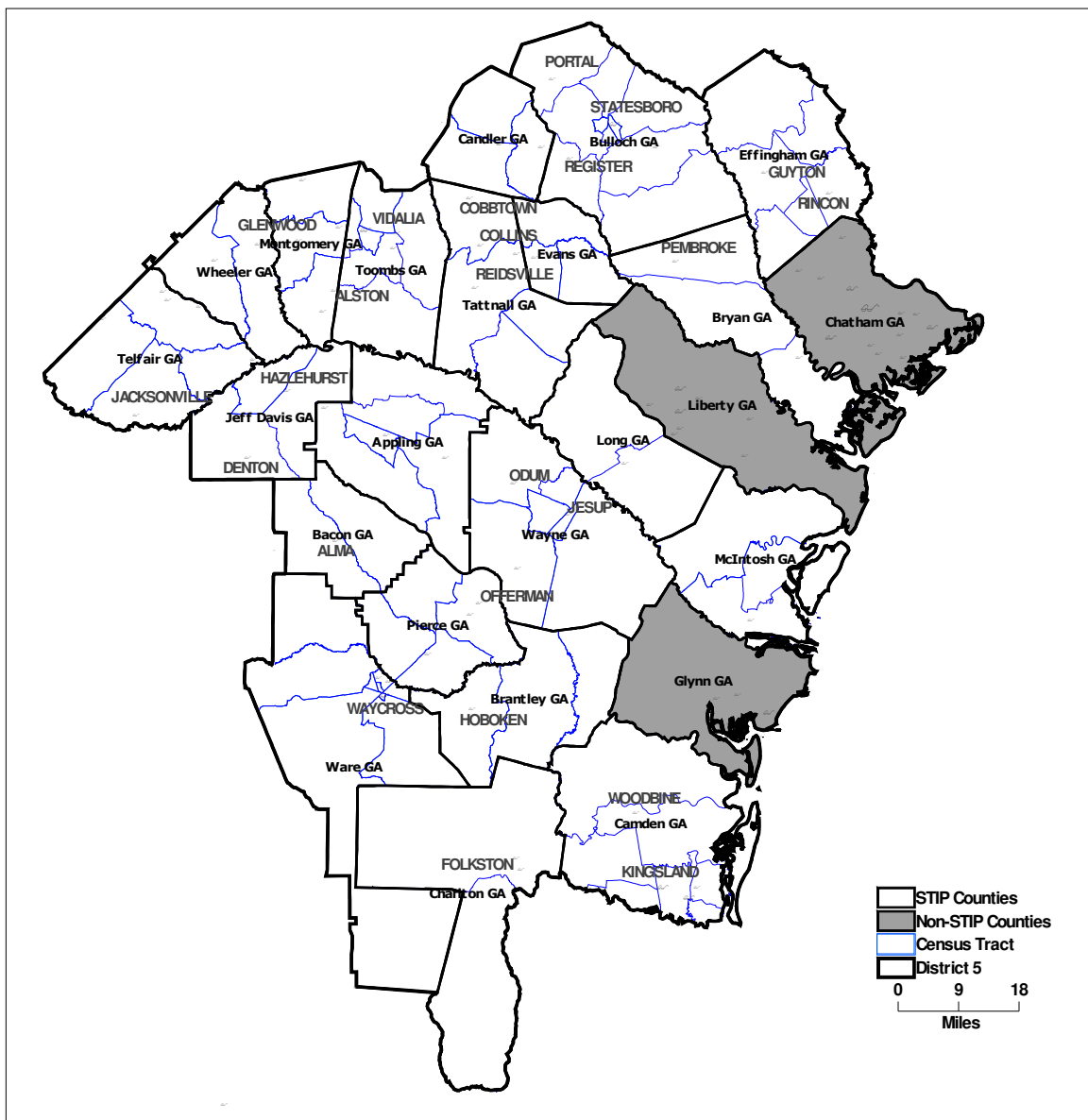
**Figure 26: District 4 – Elderly EJ Population**



## E. District 5

District 5 consists of 24 counties in the southeastern portion of Georgia, including all coastal counties. Three counties in District 5 are under the purview of a metropolitan planning organization and therefore not included in the rural STIP study area, leaving 21 in this assessment.

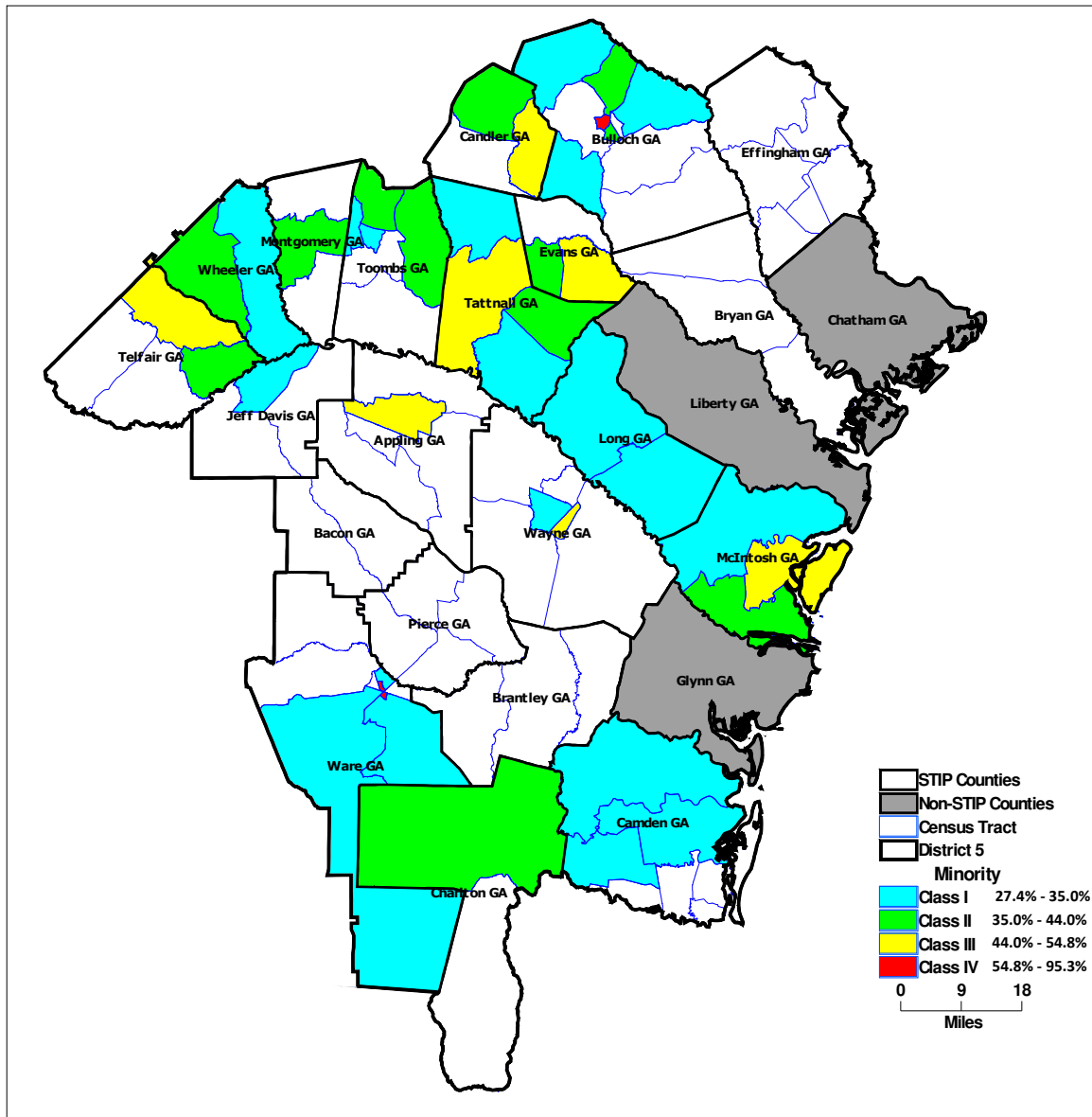
**Figure 27: District 5**



## 1. Minority EJ Population

Below is Figure 28 which is a map of the Minority EJ Population located in District 5.

**Figure 28: District 5 – Minority EJ Population**



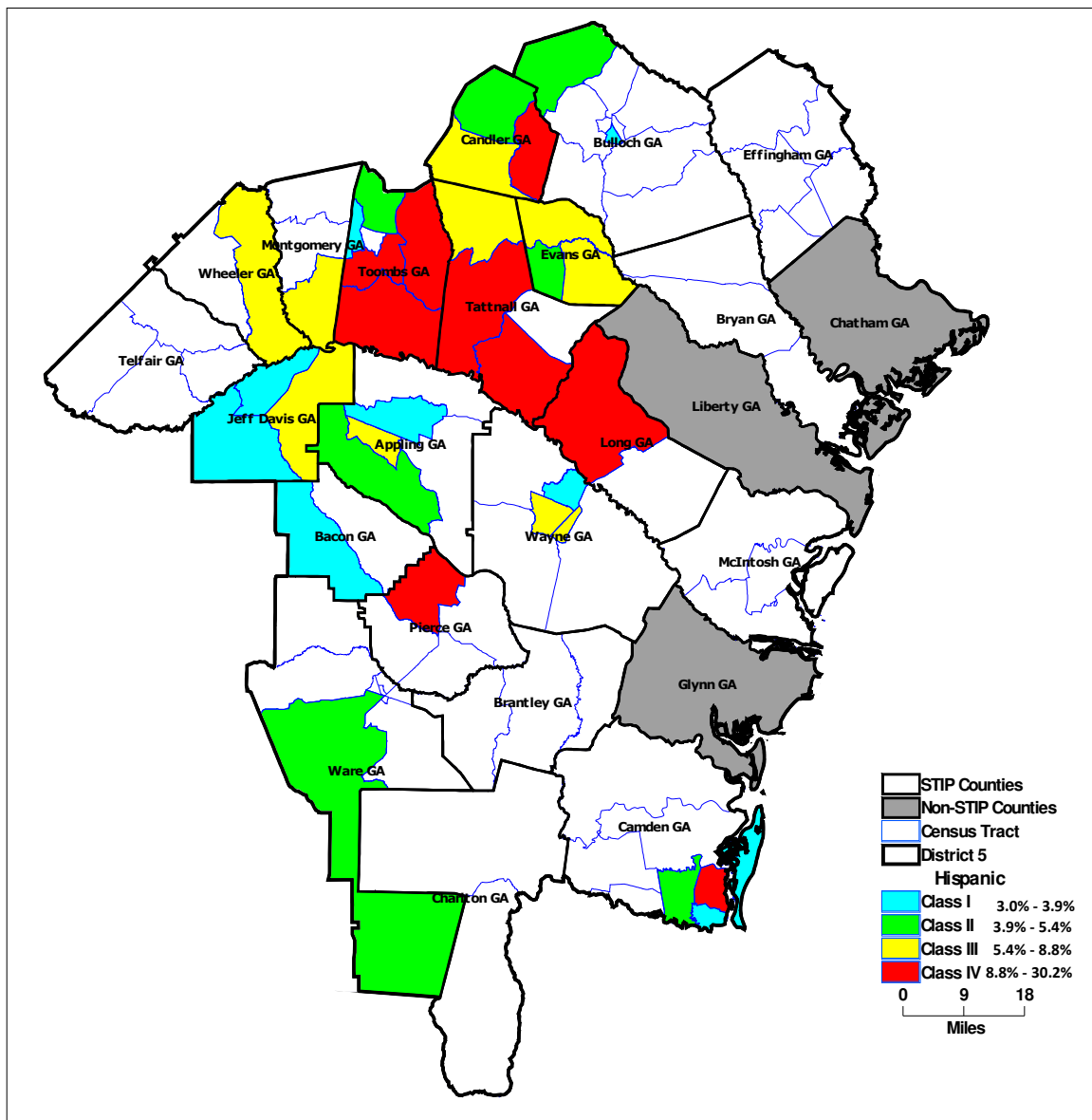
Minority populations above the EJ threshold occur in 46.1% of all District 5. However, the analysis shows that there are relatively few Class III and IV populations; the three Class IV tracts are located in Bulloch and Ware Counties in the cities of Statesboro and Waycross, respectively. Seven Class III tracts exist in Appling (one tract), Candler (one tract), Evans (one tract), McIntosh (one tract), Tattall (one tract), Telfair (one tract),

and Wayne (one tract) counties. Additionally, twelve Class II tracts and nineteen Class I tracts can be found in the district.

## 2. Hispanic EJ Population

Below is Figure 29 which is a map of the Hispanic EJ Population located in District 5.

**Figure 29: District 5 – Hispanic EJ Population**



Hispanic populations above the EJ threshold were found in 38.2% of all District 5. The analysis shows nine Class IV tracts one in the towns of St. Mary (Camden County), Pulaski

(Candler), Patterson (Pierce) and Long County. Two tracts are located in the town of Reidsville (Tattnall), and three tracts are located in Toombs County. There are ten Class III tracts located in Appling (one tract), Candler (one tract), Evans (two tracts), Jeff Daniels (one tract), Montgomery (one tract), Tattnall (one tract), Wayne (two tracts), and Wheeler (one tract) counties. Additionally, there are seven Class II tracts and nine Class I tracts in the district.

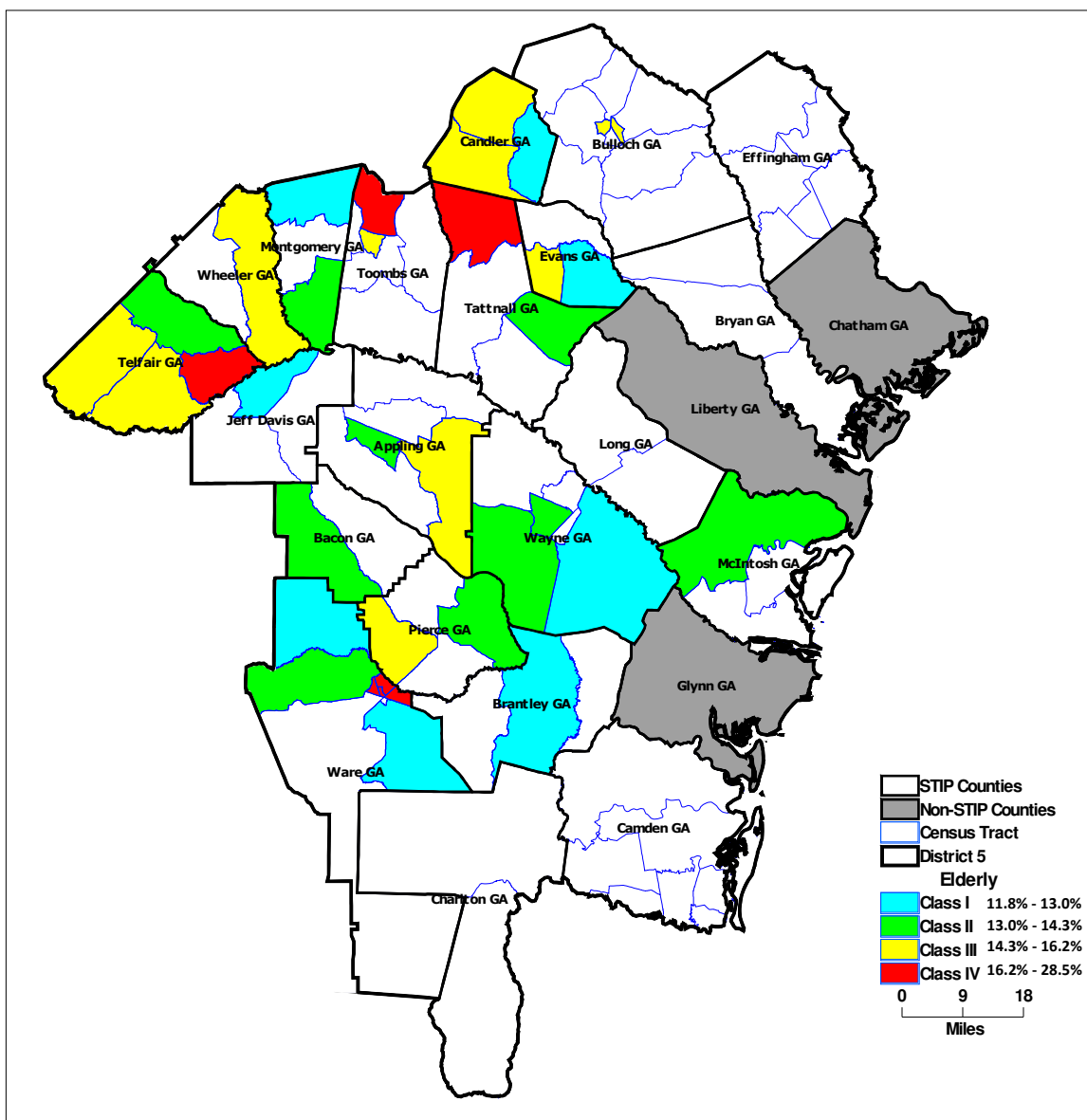
### 3. Low-Income EJ Population

Below is Figure 30 which is a map of the Low-Income EJ Population located in District 5. Low-income EJ populations are the most significant category in District 5, as the analysis shows that 69.7% of all district tracts have low-income populations above the EJ threshold. Thirteen Class IV tracts can be found in the district: one in the towns of Alma (Bacon County), Metter (Candler), Hazlehurst (Jeff Davis), and Alamo (Wheeler); two in the towns of Statesboro (Bulloch), Claxton (Evans), and Lyons (Toombs). There are three Class IV census tracts in the town of Waycross (Ware). There are ten Class III tracts in Appling (one tract), Bulloch (two tracts), Long (one tract), Pierce (one tract), Tattnall (two tracts), Toombs (two tracts), and Ware (one tract) counties. Additionally, nineteen Class II tracts and twenty Class I tracts are in the District.



Telfair (two tracts), Toombs (one tract), and Wheeler (one tract). Additionally, there are eleven Class II tracts and eight Class I tracts in the district.

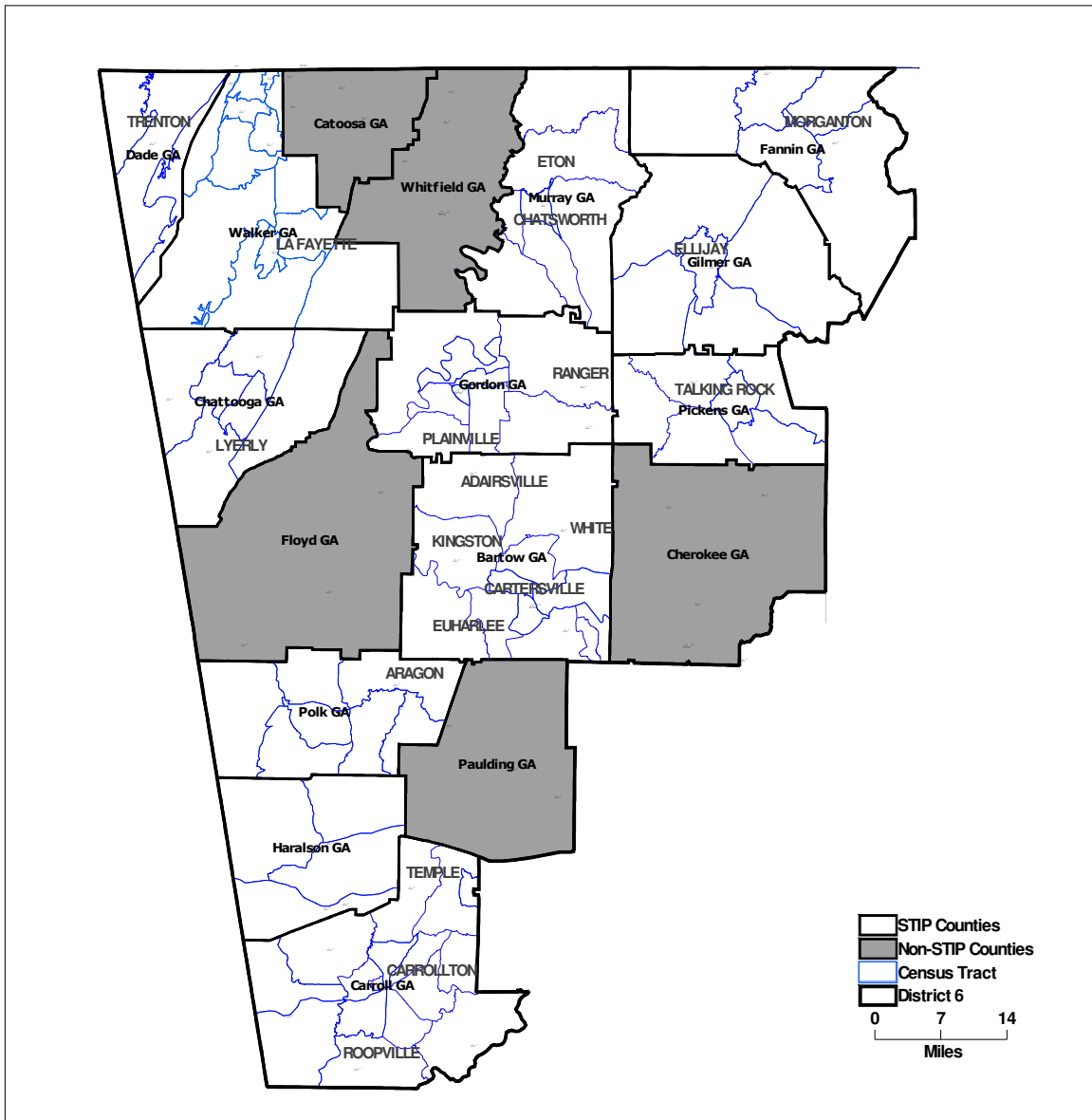
**Figure 31: District 5 – Elderly EJ Population**



## F. District 6

District 6 is composed of seventeen counties located in the northwest corner of Georgia. Five counties in District 6 are under the purview of a metropolitan planning organization and therefore not included in the rural STIP study area, leaving twelve in this assessment.

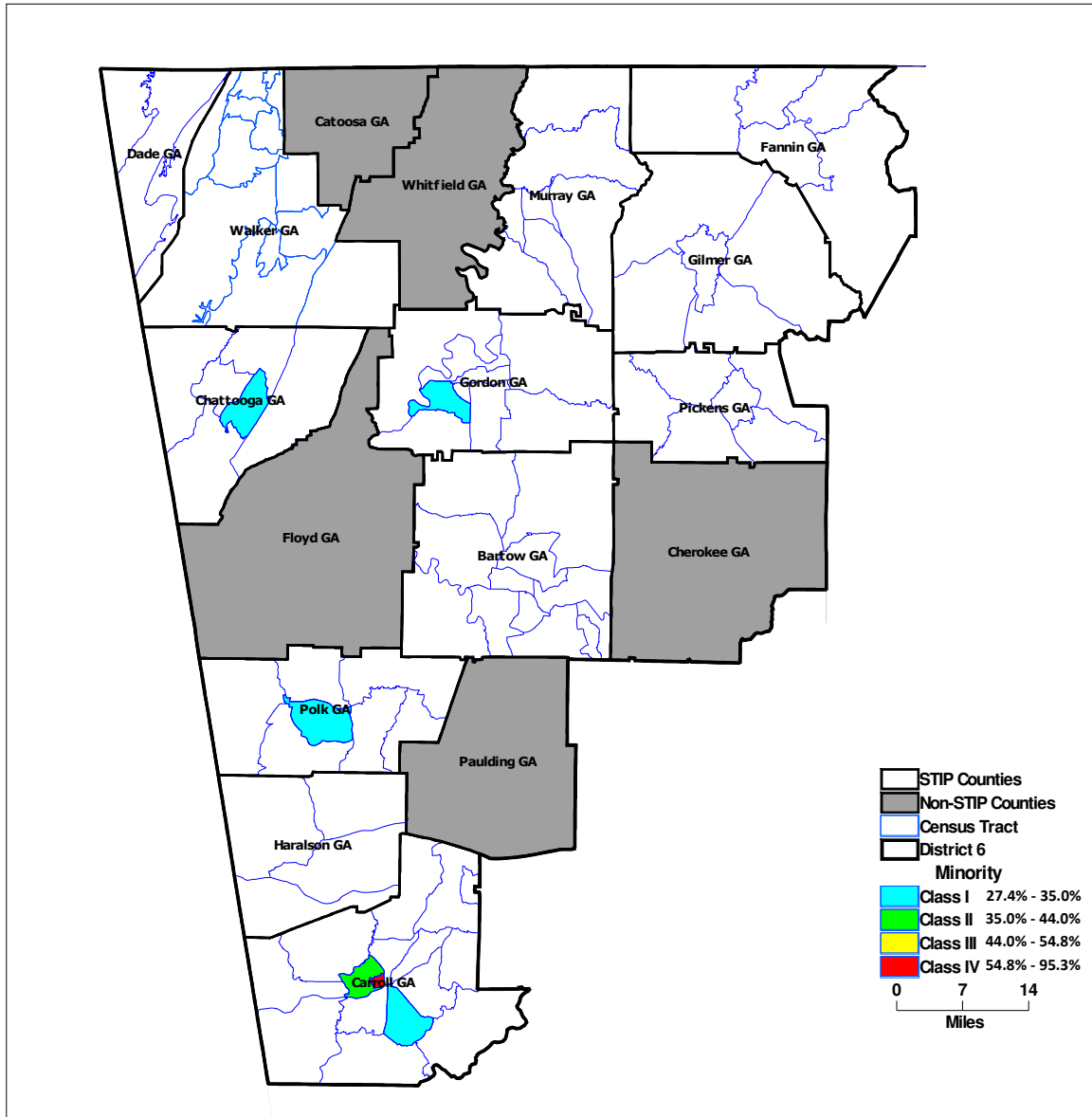
**Figure 32: District 6**



## 1. Minority EJ Population

Below is Figure 33 which is a map of the Minority EJ Population located in District 6.

**Figure 33: District 6 – Minority EJ Population**

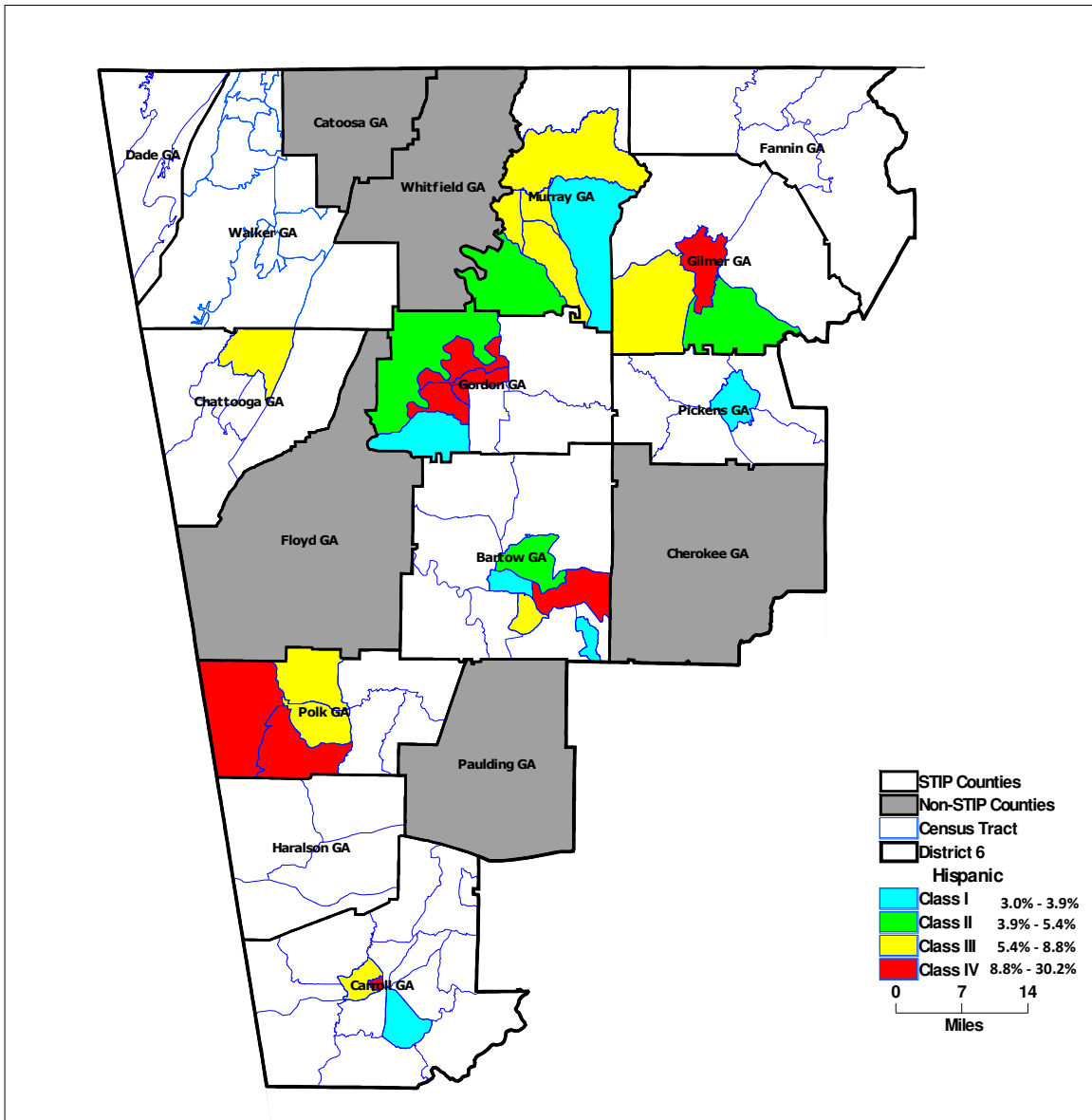


Minority EJ populations are not prevalent in District 6, as only 7.0% of tracts have minority populations above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows one Class IV tract and one Class II in Carrollton (Carroll County). There are also, four Class I tracts in the counties of Carroll, Chattooga, Gordon, and Polk.

## 2. Hispanic EJ Population

Below is Figure 34 which is a map of the Hispanic EJ Population located in District 6.

**Figure 34: District 6 – Hispanic EJ Population**



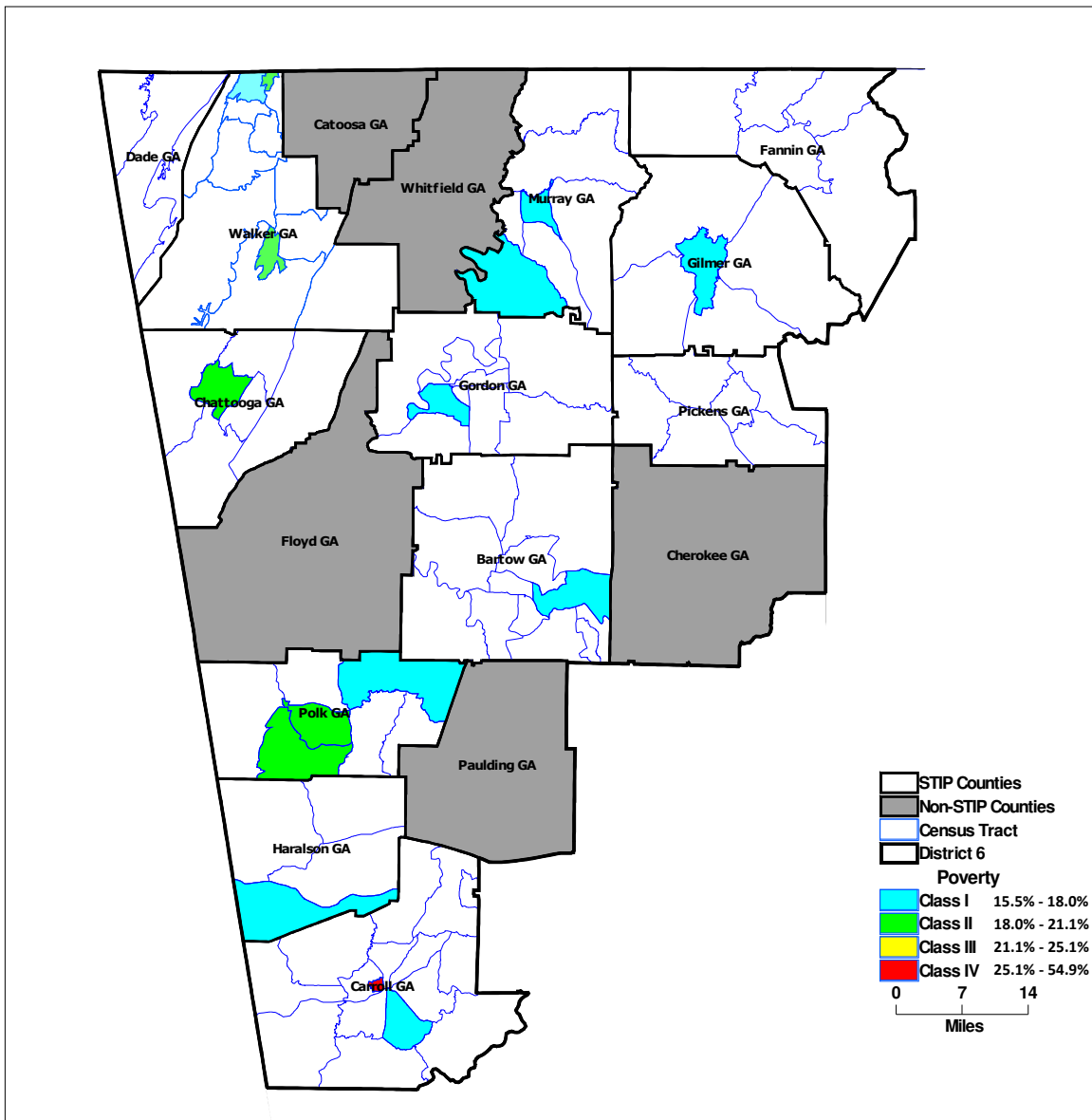
Hispanic populations above the EJ threshold are in 34.1% of all tracts. The analysis shows nine Class IV tracts; one in the towns of Carterville (Bartow County), Carrollton (Carroll), and Ellijay (Gilmer); two in Cedartown (Polk), and four in Calhoun (Gordon) each. Also, there are ten Class III tracts across Bartow (one tract), Carroll (one tract), Chattooga

(one tract), Gilmer (one tract), Murray (four tracts), and Polk (two tracts) counties. Additionally, four Class II tracts and six Class I tracts are located in the district.

### 3. Low-Income EJ Population

Below is Figure 35 which is a map of the Low-Income EJ Population located in District 6.

**Figure 35: District 6 – Low-Income EJ Population**



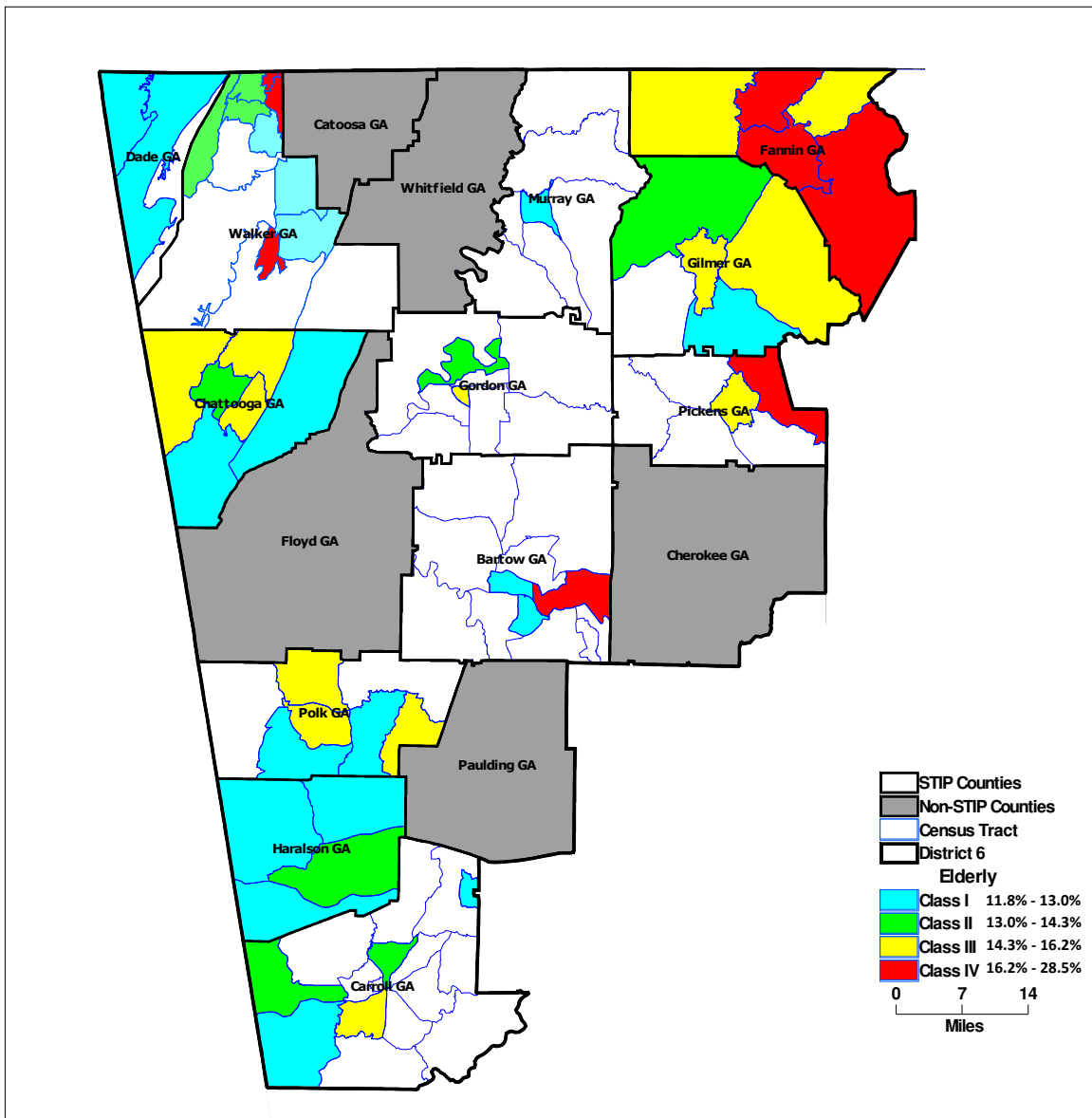
A modest number of low-income EJ populations are scattered across District 6, as only 16.2% of tracts have a low-income population above the EJ threshold. The analysis shows

one Class IV tract in the Town of Carrollton (Carroll County) and no Class III tracts. Additionally, there are three Class II tracts; two in Polk two in Walker and one in Chattooga counties and nine Class I tracts in eight counties.

## 4. Elderly EJ Population

Below is Figure 36 which is a map of the Elderly EJ Population located in District 6.

**Figure 36: District 6 – Elderly EJ Population**



Elderly EJ populations are the most prevalent EJ population in District 6, as 51.6% of all tracts in the district have populations above the EJ threshold. This is likely due to the large retirement community in the district. The analysis shows eight Class IV tracts in Bartow (one tract), Fannin (three tracts), Pickens (one tract) and Walker (three tracts) counties and thirteen Class III tracts across Carroll (one tract), Chattooga (three tracts), Fannin (two tracts), Gilmer (two tracts), Gordon (one tract), Pickens (one tract), and Polk (three tracts) counties. Additionally, nine Class II tracts can be found in six counties and eighteen Class I tracts across nine counties.

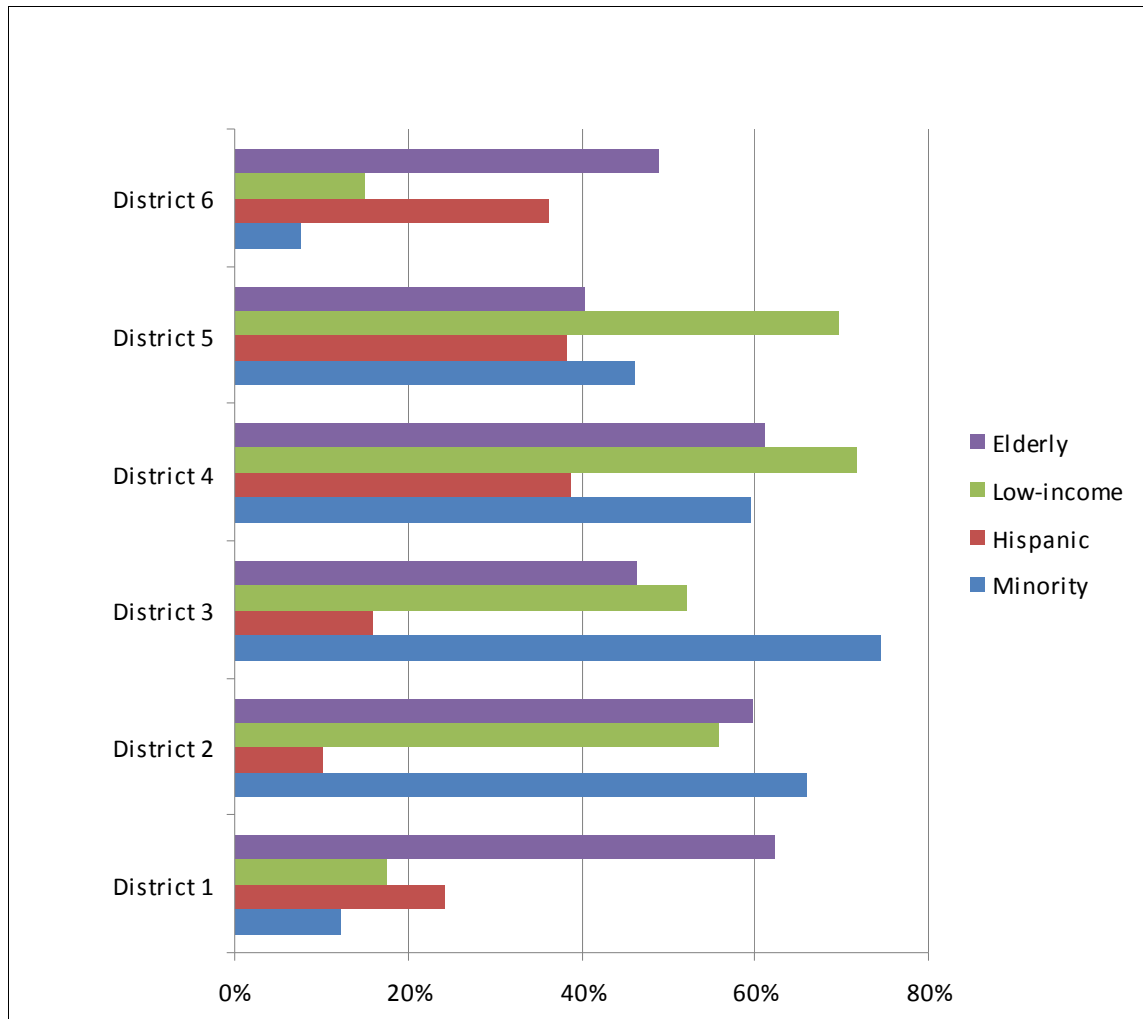
## VII. Focus and Findings

Environmental justice populations were identified across the rural STIP area. Furthermore, a summary of EJ populations based on census tract data was provided for each district. Figure 37 provides a summary of the percent of tracts with populations above the EJ threshold for each characteristic (elderly, low-income, Hispanic and minority) and gives a visual comparison of the EJ populations in each district.

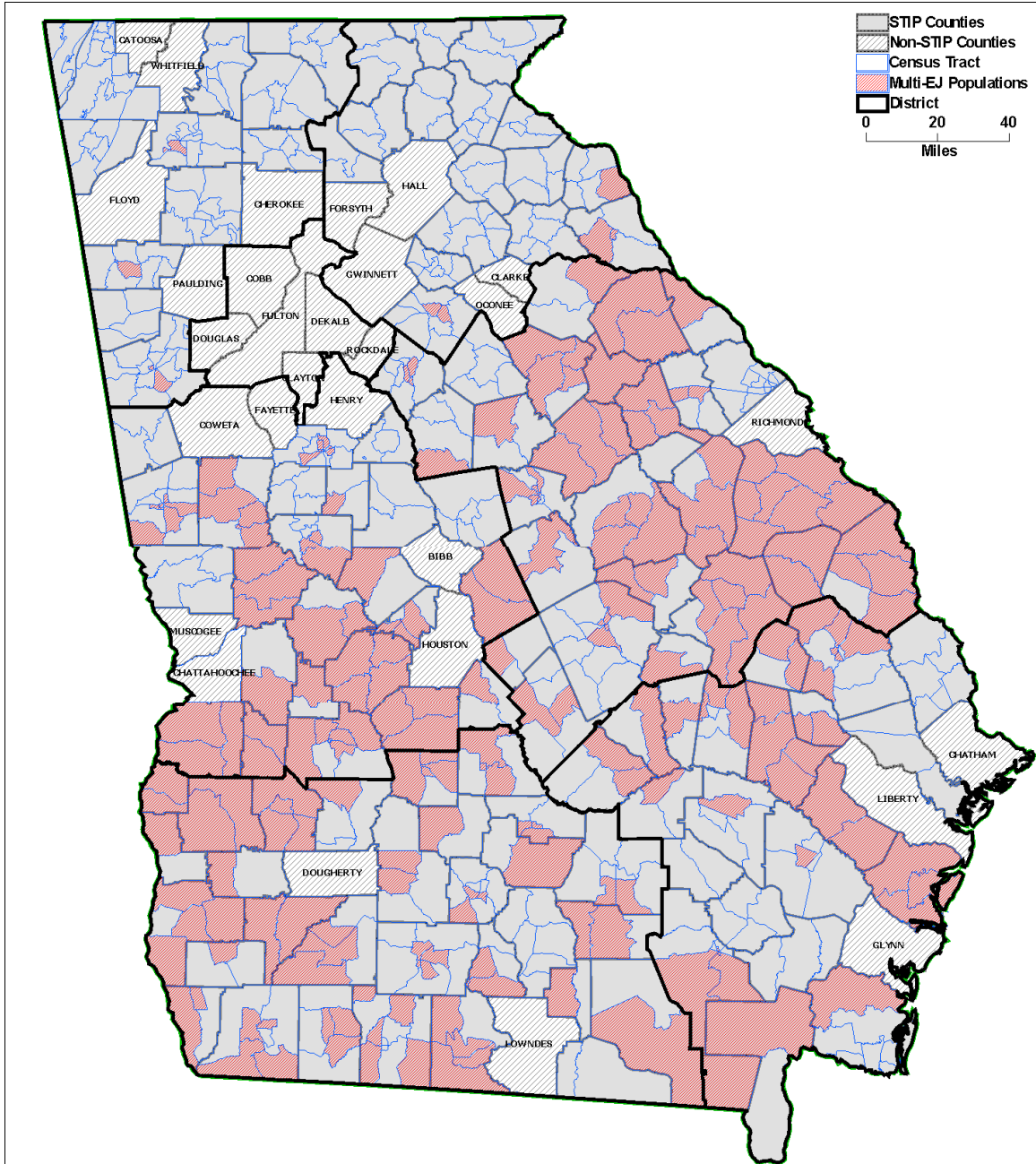
As a result, Districts 1 and 4 have the largest percentage of tracts above the elderly threshold, Districts 4 and 5 have the largest percentage of tracts above the low-income and Hispanic thresholds, and Districts 2 and 3 have the largest percentage of tracts above the minority threshold.

Maps displaying areas of focus for environmental justice outreach have also been created, see Figures 38-41. These areas are defined as census tracts in the STIP study area that have more than one overlapping environmental justice population. For example, the —Minority & Low-Income map seen on the next page shows areas where both a minority EJ population and a low-income EJ population are present. These areas are particularly sensitive due to the confluence of more than one EJ indicator.

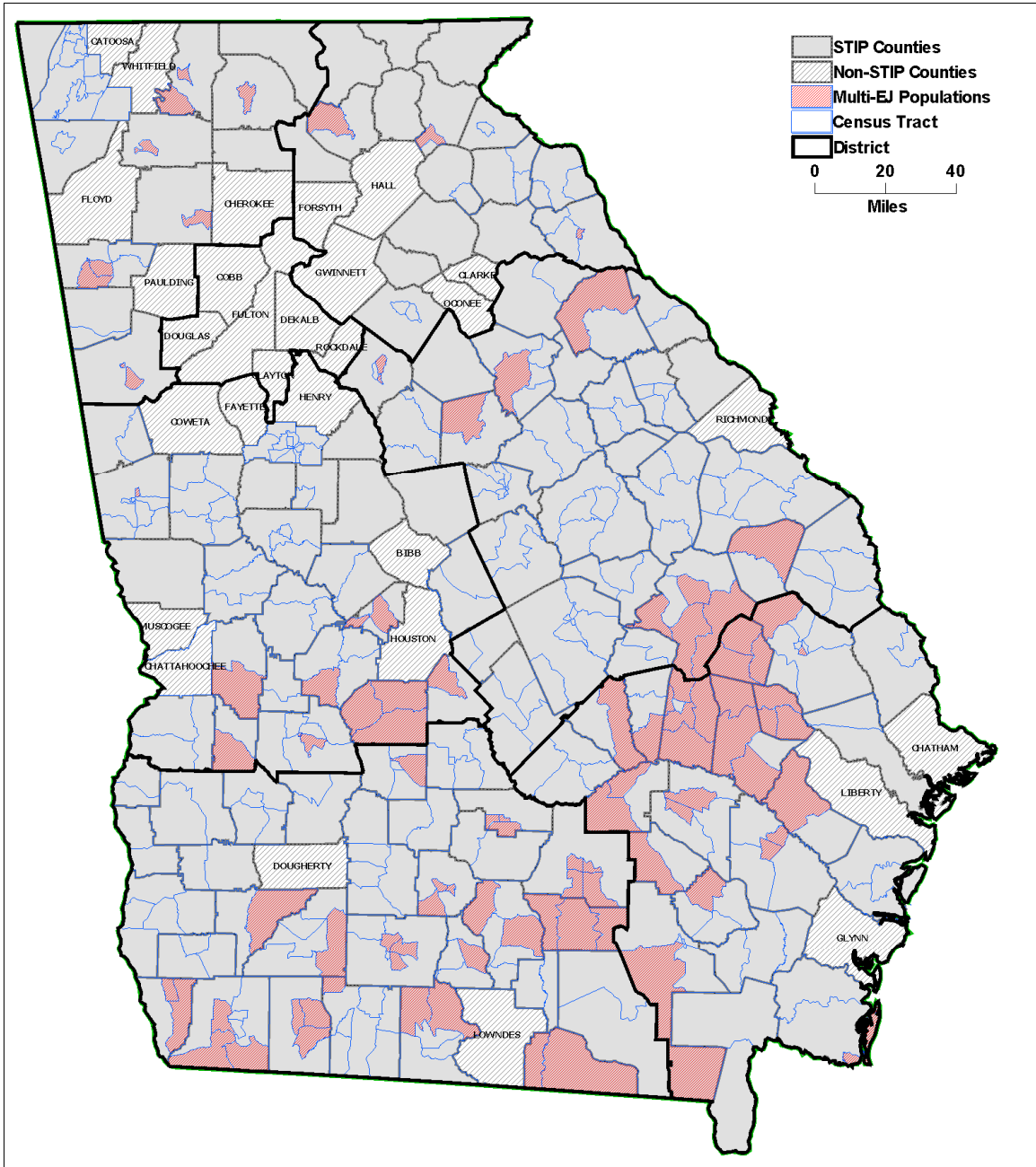
**Figure 37: EJ Population Summary**



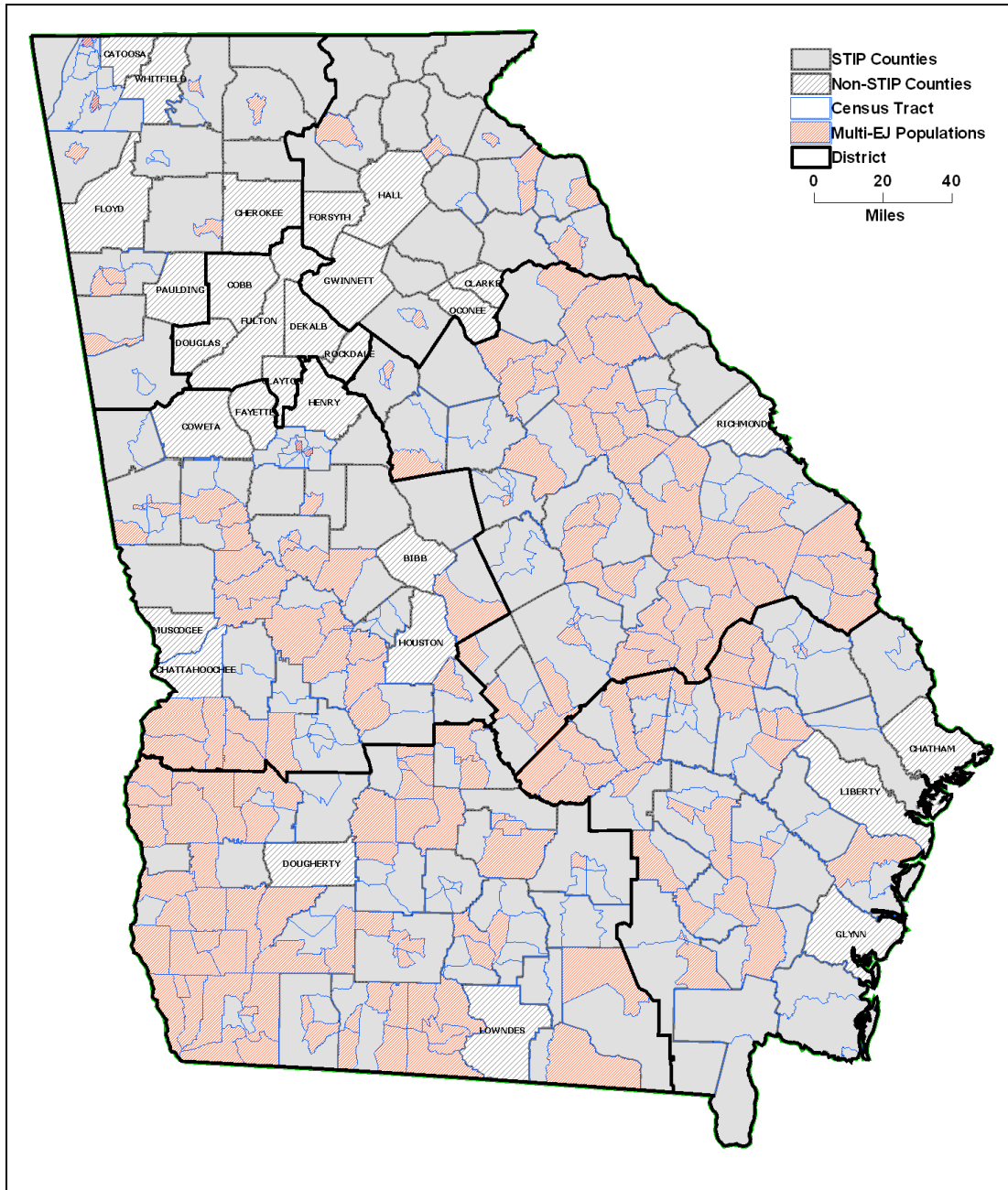
**Figure 38: Overlapping Minority and Low-Income EJ Populations**



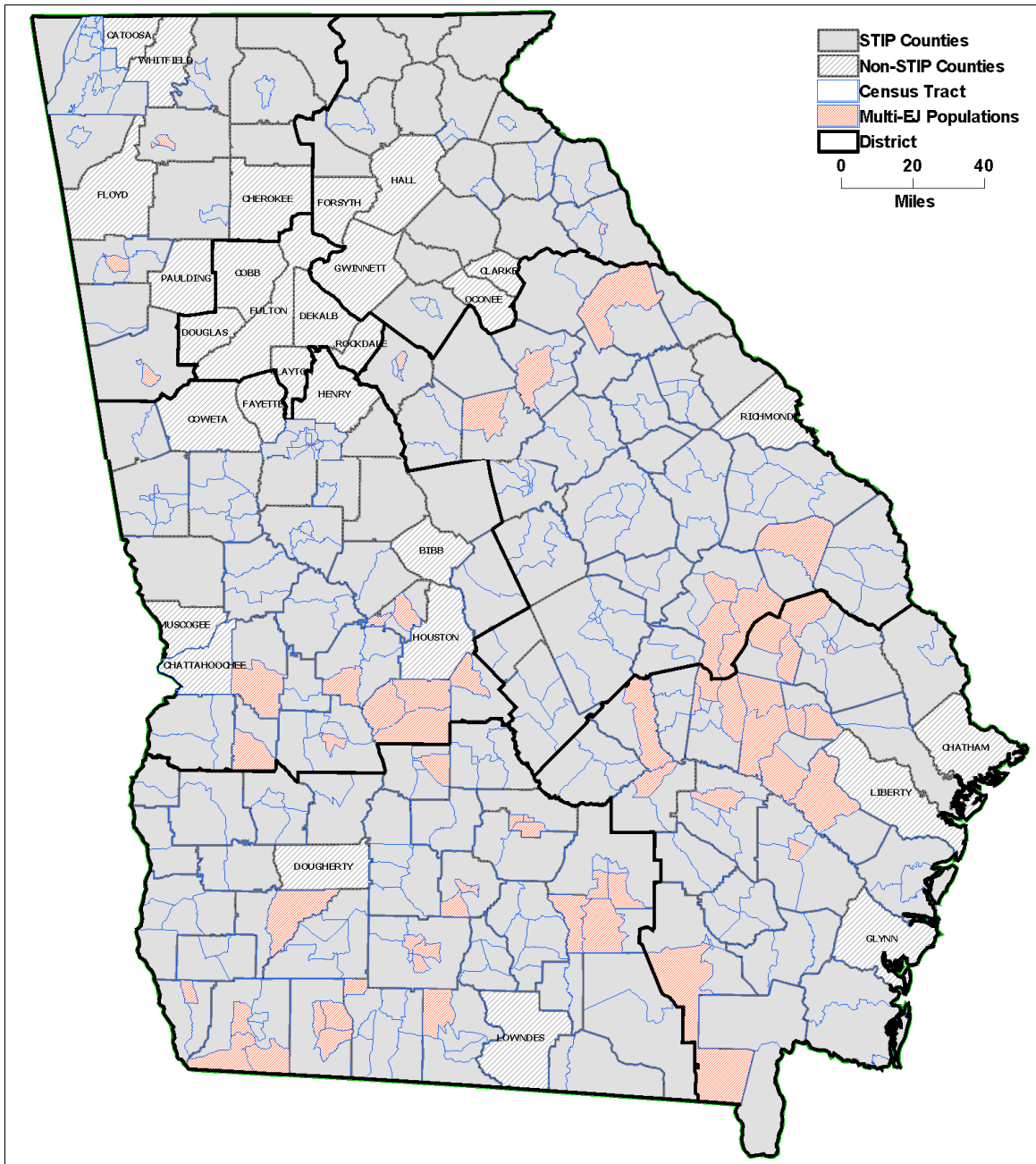
**Figure 39: Overlapping Hispanic and Low-Income EJ Populations**



**Figure 40: Overlapping Elderly and Low-Income EJ Populations**



**Figure 41: Overlapping Minority and Hispanic EJ Populations**



## VIII. Sources of Information

### Reports / Studies

- "Community Impact Assessment: A Quick Reference for Transportation" (FHWA, 9/96)
- "Community Impact Mitigation Case Studies" (FHWA, 5/98)
- "Environmental Justice Identification and Proposed Outreach Report 2007 – 2009 STIP" (GDOT, 2006)
- "Environmental Policy Statement" (FHWA, 1994)
- "EPA Environmental Justice Strategy: Executive Order 12898" (EPA, 1995)
- "People of Color Environmental Groups" (EJRC, 2000)
- "Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decision-Making" (FHWA/FTA, 9/96)
- "Rebuilding Trust Through Community Engagement Report" (Georgia Stand-Up, 2008)

### Internet Sites

- 2000 U.S. Census Bureau,
- Clark Atlanta University – Environmental Justice Resource Center, [www.ejrc.cau.edu](http://www.ejrc.cau.edu)
- Federal Highway Administration, [www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)
- Federal Transit Administration, [www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov)
- Georgia Department of Transportation, [www.dot.state.ga.us](http://www.dot.state.ga.us)
- Surface Transportation Policy Project, [www.transact.org](http://www.transact.org)
- United States Department of Transportation, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)